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The Library World.

A Medium of Intercommunication
for Librarians.

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STUDIES IN LIBRARY PRACTICE.

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I.—THE HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION OF LIBRARY CHARGING SYSTEMS. PART II.—INDICATORS. By JAMES D. BROWN, *Clerkenwell Public Library, London.*

INDICATORS.

THE important series of mechanical charging systems known generally as Indicators, have never been fully described, either from the historical or structural standpoint. Papers describing one or other of the individual varieties have been published from time to time during the period of thirty-six years they have been in use, but except the partial notices of a select few published by Mr. F. J. Burgoyne* and myself,† nothing of a comprehensive or accurate nature has ever appeared. Before proceeding to describe each separate invention in its order, it may be well to enquire briefly into the reasons for the origin of a device which has called forth not a little ingenuity and inventive talent. When libraries were first established under the provisions of the various Acts of Parliament, two things happened as a matter of course in every district: a building, suitable or otherwise, was provided; and, the readers in a town increased in number to an enormous and unprecedented extent. Straited means generally led to the provision of a cramped and inconvenient building, in which the space set apart for books was often ridiculously inadequate, with the result that lofty shelves were the rule, which secured economy of storage at the expense of rapidity of service. Previous experience in mechanics' institutes, or similar libraries, was found by the new librarian a useless criterion for public library needs, and especially as a guide to the multitude of readers and the variety of their demands. Delays in service occurred continually and the poor librarian was often abashed or offended at the freely expressed scepticism with which the public received his reports of books being *out*.

*"Library Architecture," 1897, pp. 73-87.

†"Handbook of Library Appliances," 1892, pp. 27-33.

From these factors was evolved the *idea* of the indicator, which by and by took practical shape as a machine for saving the legs of the librarian and his assistants from frequent and fruitless climbs to high shelves, and enabling readers to satisfy themselves that books were actually in use. The original indicators were intended only for showing, by means of numbers, the novels which were out or in, but since then a considerable number of libraries have applied them to all classes.

The Indicator, as a library tool is almost entirely an English appliance, and it is somewhat curious, considering their love for, and extensive use of, mechanical contrivances, that American librarians have never taken kindly to it. Various abortive experiments have been tried at Boston and elsewhere with indicating devices of several patterns, but the almost universal opinion of American librarians is against indicators in any shape or form. Practically this holds good as regards Colonial and Foreign libraries generally, though one or two Canadian and Australasian libraries have adopted indicators of an English design. In England, on the contrary, the invention of these appliances has gone on unremittingly for thirty-six years, and there must be at least twenty different varieties, each possessing a certain amount of merit or ingenuity, and many claiming to be the best, or the possessor of some point of superiority over all others. But it is not quite accurate to assume, as has been done by various writers, that the indicator system is used "almost universally" in English Public Libraries, or is even to be found in a "majority" of them. As a matter of fact, only 166 places, possessing Public Libraries under the Acts, have adopted indicators, out of 376 towns or districts where Public Libraries exist, so that, in reality, there is still a plurality of 210 places in the United Kingdom which do not use indicators, though some of these are not yet organised. This statement is made to correct a very common belief, which at one time I shared myself, that practically every British lending library was worked by means of some form of indicator. There is another point which should not be lost sight of in estimating the popularity of different charging systems, and that is the fact of the use of the indicator being restricted in many places to Fiction only. Some librarians use indicators only *as* indicators and not as registers, while in some towns indicators will be found in central libraries and not at the branches, or *vice versa*. Again, some of the very largest and most used Public Libraries in the country—Manchester, Liverpool, Bradford, Salford, &c.—do not use indicators at all. It is, therefore, quite evident that this particular system is not so universal as our American cousins and others assume.

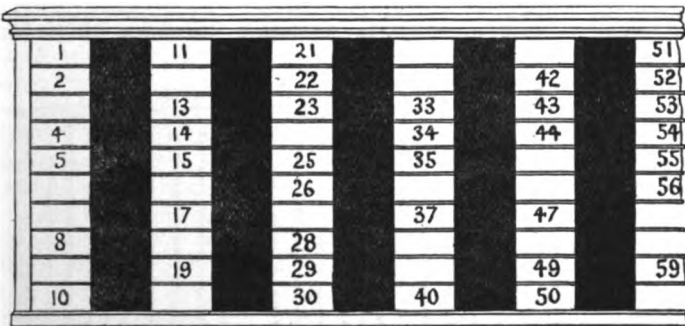
A library indicator, as its name implies, is a device for indicating or registering information about books in such a way that it can be seen either by the staff alone, or by the public and staff both. The information usually conveyed to the public is some kind of indication of the presence or absence of books, and the methods of accomplishing this almost invariably take the form of displayed numbers, qualified in such a way as to indicate books *in* and *out*. Thus, small spaces on

a screen may be numbered to represent books, and their presence in the library indicated by the space being blank, or their absence from the library shown by the space being occupied by a card or block. Or, colours may be used to indicate books in and out, or a change in the position of a block representing a book. No doubt the idea of the mechanical indicator was early evolved from the needs of the first Public Libraries. The first practical application of it I have been able to find is in 1863, when Mr. Charles Dyll, then librarian at the Hulme Branch of the Manchester Public Libraries, had one made for actual use by the public and the staff. This seems to be the very earliest English indicator, and Mr. Dyll is entitled to full credit as the pioneer inventor.

To Mr. Dyll, who is now curator of the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, I am indebted for the following description and diagram of the

DYLL INDICATOR, 1863.

As shown in the annexed sketch, this indicator was comparatively small, being a case about nine inches deep, with a glazed front. At the back, behind the glass, small shelves were provided, wide enough to carry little blocks bearing the book numbers on both their ends. These shelves were divided by small stops or partitions, which limited the blocks to the spaces required for indicating single books.

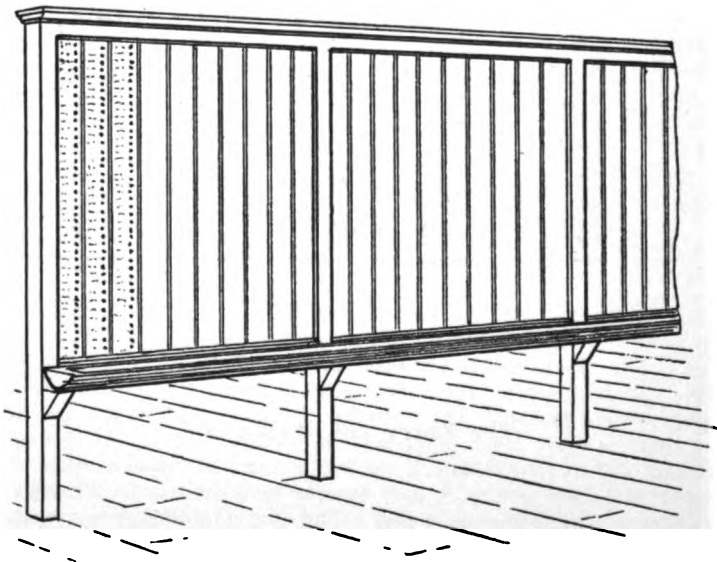


Black stripes were painted vertically on the back of the glass, in such a way as to hide half of the spaces in which the numbered blocks were kept. The blocks being arranged consecutively, so as to occupy the clear spaces between the black stripes, borrowers could see what numbers were available, the visibility of the number being an indication that the book represented was in. When a book was issued, the assistant slid its number-block behind the black stripe, so that it was concealed from the public, and thereby indicated *out*. This process was reversed when the book was returned. The charge was made in a ledger, and the contrivance was used as an indicator pure and simple,

and for fiction only. A description of it was published in the *Manchester Guardian* early in 1863. Mr. Dyll describes his indicator as one which "assisted the work very much and satisfied the borrowers, who are often sceptical when told verbally that the book they ask for is out," and it may be assumed therefore that this was the first indicator intended for both public and staff, notwithstanding Mr. Ogle's statement that "its use was limited to the members of the staff."* It is somewhat interesting that the very first indicator should have so far anticipated modern needs as to provide for this double method of indicating, because in the next indicator to be described only the staff was considered.

BARRETT INDICATOR, 1868.

This variety of indicator has often been referred to, but has hardly ever been correctly described, either as regards its construction or working. It was invented by Mr. F. T. Barrett, of the Mitchell Library, Glasgow, in the winter of 1868, while he was in the Reference Department of the Birmingham Public Library. To his recollection, and to that of Mr. Dent, of Aston Manor, I am indebted for the following particulars. The indicator was intended for staff use only, and applied to the works of fiction and to no other class. Mr. Barrett thus describes its origin:—"I was a Reference Department man, and my attendance in the Lending Department was only occasional and exceptional. It was during one of my casual services downstairs that I was struck by the immense loss of time and labour spent in looking for books that were not in the building at all. The boys would bring me long lists, up to seventy or eighty numbers, and report all out.



* "The Free Library," p. 99.

Now and then I tested their search myself, going from place to place, up ladders and down again—and they were long ones—only to find, after perhaps a quarter-of-an-hour's hard labour, that the report was correct. It was to save all this travel and climbing that I suggested a duplicate in little of the fiction shelves, in the shape of the board with the holes in it. As far as I can remember, the holes were some quarter inch apart, and were about a sixteenth in diameter. The concern was wretchedly ill-made, of wood which afterwards shrank, and the holes became too loose, and it was no very rare thing for a hasty or clumsy lad to knock against the 'indicator' and shake out quite a shower of pegs, and so 'indicate' a similar number of books *out*, thus rendering the check of the indicator by the shelves doubly necessary."

As shown in the illustration, the indicator consisted of a large board in which were drilled vertical columns of peg holes, above a hollow ledge or tray fixed on the indicator about thirty-two inches from the floor. Long stripes of printed numbers in progressive order were fastened alongside the columns, so that a number appeared against every hole. A specially made metal peg (not a French nail as has been

80	....	○
81	....	○
82	....	○
83	....	○

stated) was fitted into every hole, and remained there while the book represented by the number was in. On the issue of a book the peg opposite its number was withdrawn and placed in the ledge. On the return of a book a peg was replaced in the hole, opposite the book number. This would save the assistants considerable trouble, as by scanning the face of the indicator they could rapidly ascertain the numbers of the pegs remaining, but only very correct working would insure its continued usefulness. It remained in use for several years, till suspended by a later device. Mr. Barrett invented another indicator which is described later on.

(To be continued.)



II.—CLASSIFIED AND ANNOTATED CATALOGUING : SUGGESTIONS AND RULES. By L. STANLEY JAST, *Librarian, Croydon Public Libraries.*

(Continued from page 215, Vol. I.)

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The Entry and its Parts.

17. Before proceeding to codify for the first division of the class list, the catalogue proper, I have to propose a definite terminology for the parts of the catalogue entry. The present terminology is vague. The word *entry*, for instance, may cover what is usually termed the

entry, *i.e.*, everything before the book number or symbol, and a note also, in which case we have no word for the non-note part of the entry. To get over this, I suggest using the following terms in the meanings attached :—

18. The **Entry** is a general term for all the information given in the catalogue, everything on a slip or card. It may consist of two parts, description and note.

19. The **Description** includes the mark (see below) and all that comes before it.

20. The **Note** is whatever comes after the mark ; it is usually in smaller type than the description. But in some cases a note is incorporated into the description.

21. The description is subdivided first into the **Heading**, which is all that precedes the title. The **Title** I need not define.

22. The **Aftertitle** is all that comes between the title and the imprint, *e.g.*, translator, editor.

23. The **Imprint** covers volumes, illustrations, date, and the like, and series.

24. The **Mark** is the number or symbol by which the book is arranged.

25. This table will make all clear :—

Entry	{	Description	{	Heading.
				Title.
		Note.		Aftertitle.
				Imprint.
				Mark.

26. Having settled on this simple but perfectly definite nomenclature, which would not be offered were there not a distinct need of something of the kind, I will discuss the various parts of the entry in this order.

The Heading.

When not under Author.

27. In the dictionary catalogue the author entry is the master entry ; it is an author catalogue first, and anything afterwards. In the class list—with certain exceptions—there is only the author entry, under the various class headings. The rule is to enter at the topic under the author, except in the following cases :—

28. Enter works about works under the authors of the works treated of. This rule brings Hathaway's "Analysis of Mendelssohn's Organ Works" under Mendelssohn.

29. And works about persons under the persons. This may be a biography, or may not, as in Dowden's "Shakspeare."

30. The entry in such cases is the ordinary author entry, but the author comes in the second place, thus :—

Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, F. Hathaway, J. W. G. An
Analysis of M.'s Organ Works.

A cross reference may be made from Hathaway under the subject

heading, but as the author index will always refer anyone to Hathaway, this is hardly necessary. If the entry under Hathaway is preferred, then Mendelssohn should appear in the subject index, as the topic of the book is Mendelssohn as well as Organ.

The Author, Individual and Collective.

31. The Author

in the narrower sense is the person who writes a book; in a wider sense it may be applied to him who is the cause of the book's existence.—Cutter, "Definitions."

In this "wider sense" is the term used bibliographically, and the consideration of this definition will render unnecessary many of the special rules found in codes as to who is to be regarded as author.

32. Thus editors of collections are manifestly authors, because they are responsible for the existence of the collection. In the case of a collection from a single writer it goes under the writer (=the author "in the narrower sense"), but the editor is entitled to a sub-author entry, as

Hunt, Leigh. Kent, Charles, (Ed). L. H. as Poet and Essayist: Choicest Passages from His Works.

33. Some cataloguers distinguish between compilers, adaptors, selectors, &c. I did this myself once, but what is the good? Call them all editors, whatever they call themselves.*

34. Thus also (referring to the remark in 31)

Bodies of men (societies, cities, legislative bodies, countries) are to be considered the authors of their memoirs, transactions, journals, debates, reports, &c.—*Ibid.*

In fact they *are* the authors by our definition. If the book is "by" somebody, he receives a sub-author entry under the name of the society or body.

35. Put

- a* Government publications, under country, and then, department.
- b* Societies not local, under first word, not an article, of name.
- c* Local societies, under place, and then, name.

Or, in regard to *a*, leave out the county when Great Britain, entering under the department only. Thus

Home Office. Reports of H. M. Inspector of Mines for the Liverpool District, 1898.

but

United States. Department of the Interior. Geological Survey. Gilbert, G. K. Lake Boneville.

36. But treat publications of publishing societies, like the Parker Society, the Early English Text Society, &c., as separate works, going

* Such a phrase as "selected and edited by" (which occurs on the title-page of Kent's "Leigh Hunt") is, strictly, incorrect. To edit covers selecting.

under their own authors, with the name of the society treated like the title of a series. The Chronicles and Memorials published by the Master of the Rolls will come under this rule.

Anonymous Works.

37. Enter anonymous works under the first word, not an article, of the title, if the author is not known. Consider a work to be anonymous when the author's name is absent from the title-page.

38. But enter under author where possible, and write *Anon.* after the name. It is the custom to put supplied names in square brackets, but if the now common and far more elegant space is used instead of a dash to indicate repetition of name, a difficulty occurs when an anonymous work is mixed up with other works of the same author not anonymous. You can bracket a dash, but hardly a space. To give an example (imaginary)

Smith. Nature Essays.
Essays on the Beautiful.
Anon. By the Fireside.

Under What Name and Part of Name.

39. Enter kings, popes, friars, persons canonized, and others known chiefly by their first names, under the first name; all others under the surname.

40. Enter compound names under the *last* part of the name if English (which includes naturalised foreign); under the *first* part if foreign, unless known only by the last part. When entry is under last part give the first part in full with the hyphen, as **Gould, S. Baring-**.

41. Enter surnames with prefix, if English, under prefix; if French, under prefix, except "de" and "d'"; if any other language do not enter under prefix. And generally, prefixes spelled as part of the name are to be entered in that form, *e.g.*, **Vandyck**.

42. Enter married women under their latest names, with earlier names bracketed after; if more than one, in the order they were borne, *e.g.*, **Lean, Mrs. Francis (Florence Marryat, Mrs. Ross Church)**.

43. Carrying out the principle of entry under latest name, we shall put noblemen under their titles, *e.g.*, **Lytton, Edward Bulwer, H., Lord**. Or put **Lytton, Baron**, if you want to be exact, where exactness does not seem of much consequence.

44. As regards pseudonyms, of the three possible courses, to wit, to enter under *a* the real name, if known, *b* the pseudonym, *c* the best-known name (or what the cataloguer judges to be such), whether false or real, my own practice is to follow *a*; though *c*, perhaps, is now the most generally followed, but I note that the Library School Rules adopt *a*. Personally, I have always been of opinion that *c* sacrificed the undeniable advantage of uniformity for a very problematical gain. One good reason for preferring the real name is because

The tendency is always toward the use of the real name; and that tendency will be much helped in the reading public if the real name is always preferred in catalogues.—*Cutter*.

45. But attempts to get behind pseudonyms, the real names of whose bearers are not fairly to be regarded as public property, are better not made. There is more zeal than good taste in the enterprise which writes a postcard to the bearer of a pseudonym which has baffled research, asking for his or her real name—by return. This sort of thing savours more of the detective than of the self-respecting cataloguer.

46. There are several methods of denoting pseudonyms, but I prefer that of italicising it, as **Stannard, Mrs. H. E. V.** (*J. S. Winter*), the cross reference form being, *Winter, J. S.* See **Stannard, Mrs. H. E. V.**

47. If you know that a name is a pseudonym, but do not know the real name, enter under it and italicise it. If you are not sure, treat as a real name.

48. Phrases like "A Foreman Pattern Maker" are not pseudonyms, and such books should be treated as anonymous, and entered like this:—

Metal Turning : by A Foreman Pattern Maker.

49. But if the name is known the phrase may be bracketed after it like a pseudonym, and referred from, when it has been persistently used, as **Visger, Mrs. Owen, and Jordan Denham** (*A Son of the Marshes*)

(*To be continued.*)

NOTE.—As it is intended to republish this series of articles in book form, I shall be grateful to any librarians, especially those who have done any class list work, for any suggestions, criticisms, difficulties, which they may care to send me, as well as catalogues. As nothing in the way of a class list or annotative code exists, it is desirable that this should be made as good and as useful as possible. Address to me, at Town Hall, Croydon.—L.S.J.



THE ARRANGEMENT OF PERIODICALS.

By E. A. BAKER, M.A., *Midland Railway Institute, Derby.*

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GOING into one of the largest and most imposing reading-rooms that any Public Library in this country can boast, I notice that there exists no obvious means of ascertaining in what part of the room, or on what table it is advisable to look for any particular magazine or weekly you may want to see out of the several hundreds taken in. It seems such a remarkable, though not as a matter of fact a singular state of things, that I ask an assistant if there is really no handy method for solving this frequent little problem of latitude and longitude; and he admits that if anybody be so unreasonable as to want anything in particular and to be determined to get that thing and

nothing else, the search would not improbably take ten minutes; double that time is sometimes spent by enthusiasts in this kind of chase. To be sure this example is an exceptionally bad one, but there is no need of statistics to remind us that the difficulty often detracts in a certain measure from the usefulness of libraries that are well-equipped, comfortable, and handsome to look at.

Some years ago, at Leicester, Mr. C. V. Kirkby showed me his plan for telling the whereabouts of every publication. It was simply to have covers of a distinctive colour for all that lay on each table, and also a list attached to every table. The result was first comparative ease of finding your paper, and next neatness instead of disorder. A cover displaced would, of course, be found as easily on the wrong table as on the right one. Perhaps there is nothing very new in this simple and obvious expedient, but why is it not used more extensively? Lately a good many libraries have adopted adjustable lists for their periodicals. This kind of list adapts itself easily and inexpensively to

LIST OF PERIODICALS	
DAILY.	WEEKLY.
BELLSHIRE	METROPOLE RECORDER.
CHRONICLE	MOON'S JOURNAL.
DAILY GRAPHIC.	NEWS OF THE WORLD.
DAILY MAIL.	RAILWAY REVIEW.
DAILY NEWS.	SOUTH EASTERN BEAVER.
EVENING NEWS.	SOUTH LONDON MAIL.
EVENING STANDARD.	SOUTHWAKE RECORDER.
GLOBE.	WEEKLY DISPATCH.
IRISH TIMES.	WEEKLY NATION.
LEADS MERCURY.	MONTHLY.
LIVERPOOL POST.	BOOK WORLD.
MORNING	BICYCLING NEWS.
MORNING LEADER.	BIRMINGHAM POLYTECHNIC NEWS.
MORNING POST.	CASSELL'S MAGAZINE.
ST. JAMES'S GAZETTE.	CHAMBERS JOURNAL.
STANDARD.	CHILD'S GUARDIAN.
STAR.	CONTEMPORARY REVIEW.
SIX.	CORNHILL MAGAZINE.
TELEGRAPH.	EDUCATIONAL TIMES.
TIMES.	ENGLISH ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE.
WESTMINSTER GAZETTE.	FINANCIAL REFORMER.
WEEKLY.	FORTNIGHTLY REVIEW.
BLACK AND WHITE.	FRIENDLY LEAVES.
CHRISTIAN GLOBE.	GIRL OWN PAPER.
CITIZEN.	GOOD WORKS.
ENGINEER.	KNOWLEDGE.
ESTATES GAZETTE.	LIBRARY.
GRAPHIC.	LITERARY GUIDE.
ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.	LORDMAN'S MAGAZINE.
IRISH SPORTING & OMAN NEWS.	MAGAZINE OF ART.
IRON & COAL TRADES REVIEW.	NYA'S JOURNAL.
ISLE OF MAN TIMES.	NATIONAL REVIEW.
JUSTICE.	NINETEENTH CENTURY.
LABOUR LEADER.	PEARSON'S MAGAZINE.
LEATHER TRADES CIRCULAR.	REVIEW OF REVIEWS.
LONDON BOY & STAMFORD WEL.	STRAND MAGAZINE.
LOCAL GOVERNMENT JOURNAL.	DIRECTORIES
LONDON.	BRADBURN'S RAILWAY GUIDE.

ADJUSTABLE PERIODICALS LIST.

the method of arrangement by tinted covers, and so gets rid of any further cause of confusion.

The list can be arranged like a plan, the titles being gathered together into blocks according to the position of the papers in the room. First will come the dailies in the same consecutive order as the stands; next table No. 1, say red covers—the illustrated papers; table No. 2, blue covers—the technical papers, and so on; whilst one table may be kept for such things as are not worth a cover. If necessary the publications on each table can be sub-divided into dailies, weeklies, and monthlies; but usually the tables keep these separate; and as to classifying by subject, the tables in a large reading-room will naturally be apportioned to special departments of journalism. Still, it may be worth while having another movable list arranged alphabetically as an index, and hung up side by side with the other.

Though these few suggestions are almost trivial in their simplicity and obviousness, the confusion that still reigns in divers places may excuse them as a reminder; after all, the papers are the most essential part of a news-room. A librarian may feel acute satisfaction to see his numerous array of magazines and weeklies all dressed in the same livery, some of them, perhaps, fitted with an expensive fastener that will hardly pay its initial cost in many years; but the reader may come to prefer them in their pristine nakedness, after he has repeatedly mistaken the *Athenæum* for *Tit-Bits*. As for people who use those unsightly, perishable, and incongruous covers given away by advertising agents, well, neatness and order must be matters they take very little interest in



JAMES BAKER, F.R.G.S.

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THE subject of this sketch is well known to many librarians as an author, photographer and occasional visitor to the Annual Meetings of the Library Association. As an author Mr. Baker is perhaps best known by his novels, "John Westacott" (1886), "Mark Tillotson" (1892), "By the Western Sea" (1889), "The Gleaming Dawn" (1896), and "The Cardinal's Page" (1898), all of which have been well received, and have passed through several editions. His other works are "Pictures from Bohemia," a record of his own travel and experiences in Bohemia; "Days Afoot, and European Sketches" a similar account of European travel; and a volume of poems and translations entitled "Quiet War Scenes" (1879). He has contributed to all the leading magazines a long series of papers, chiefly on topographical, historical, social, and literary subjects, and writes for journals like the *Pall Mall Gazette*, *Black and White*, *Queen*, &c. Reproductions of some of his photographs appear in the "Souvenir of the Twenty-first Annual Meeting of the Library Association held at



Southport, &c.," 1898. Mr. Baker was born on January 1st, 1847, and was educated by his father, who was a schoolmaster in the West of England, and afterwards secretary of Clifton College and founder of a publishing firm. He has travelled a great deal in Greece, Russia, Lapland, Egypt, and Central Europe, and in his journalistic capacity has acted as special correspondent to different newspapers. Mr. Baker takes a warm interest in the work of Public Libraries, and is a member of the Library Association.



WE have been requested to insert the following note as a supplement to the statement on page 264 of the *Library World*, Vol. I:—"Mr. Edward **McKnight** of the Carlisle Public Library, who has been appointed Librarian of Chorley, was trained in the Wigan Public Library for seven years—three years of which he was apprenticed to Mr. Folkard. He was only eight months at Carlisle."

Mr. Henry Guppy, of Sion College, editor of the *Library Association Record*, has been appointed joint-librarian of the Rylands' Library, Manchester, and has now left London to take up his new duties. The good wishes of every librarian will go with Mr. Guppy, who has taken a foremost place in British library affairs, and shown by his lectures, bibliographical work and editorial ability that he is well qualified for his new appointment.

THE LIBRARY STAFF.

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THIS DEPARTMENT is conducted for the special, but not exclusive, benefit of the earnest and studious Library Assistant, who is determined to make his or her way in the profession of Librarianship. An effort will be made to cover in a gradual and complete manner, the whole of the ground occupied by the technical side of the craft, and to enable this to be thoroughly done, brief practical notes of any kind are solicited from assistants or librarians in any sort of library. Ethical disquisitions on department and disagreeable controversial notes are not wanted. Every assistant should make a point of sending at least one note annually bearing on the daily routine work of a library. Nothing is too trivial or trite to be thoroughly discussed.

EDITED BY A LANCASHIRE LIBRARIAN.

Filing Periodicals.

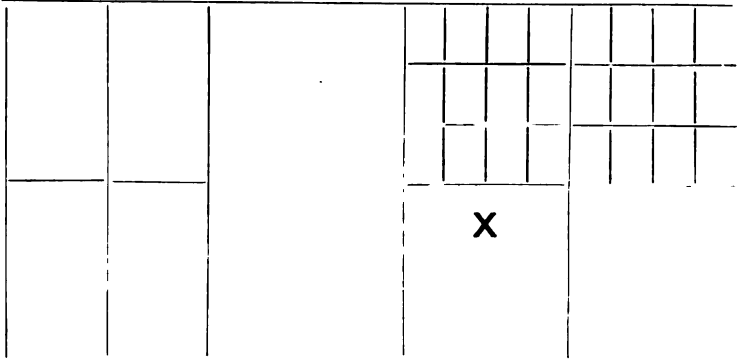
THE binding and preserving of magazines and newspapers in our Public Libraries is a question which has given librarians a good deal of trouble. It is no easy matter to decide which newspapers and magazines are worth preserving out of one or two hundred. Most librarians would like to preserve all, but cannot from want of space, and more often from scarcity of money. The first essential, and one which should interest assistants more than librarians, is the filing and preservation of each part as issued until the volume is ready for binding. To do this so that each part is accessible at any time requires room and a system; without both, your unbound periodicals will soon become so torn that it would be better to sell them as waste paper than send them to the binder. With a view to assisting those who are finding this a difficult problem, we would ask assistants to favour us with a short note on the plan adopted at their own library. By this means we hope to give librarians and assistants information which will enable them to improve their own libraries in this department at least.

The Index- ing of Supplies.

WHO has not felt the want of a short and handy Index of Supplies? You require a report typewritten for your committee at once, but the current supply of paper has given out, and nobody knows where the store is kept; the assistant who stored it has gone a-holidaying, or is at dinner—will somebody explain the extraordinary fact that the assistant who is particularly wanted is *always* off duty?—and the secret of the whereabouts of that typewriter paper is locked within his breast. Frantic hunt for typewriter paper, in the course of which the stores

are disarranged to such an extent that nobody knows where anything is afterwards. You fume, staff turns sulky, and a general air of melancholy settles over the establishment. A satisfactory Index of Supplies changes all this, but the usual form of index is not satisfactory. Here is a form which is, as used now in my own library. The desk, bureau, or whatever it may be, which contains supplies is represented in rough diagrammatic elevation on cards, like this :—

FINE RECEIPT BOOKS.

Office

The drawing on this card is a representation of a table in my office, having below two cupboards, each divided into four compartments by shelves and vertical partitions. The two upper compartments of the right-hand cupboard are further divided up into pigeon-holes. The diagram is taken off on a number of cards by means of one of the duplicating apparatuses. When a supply is stored away in this piece of furniture—say, fine receipt books—one of these blanks is headed with the name of the supply, and an X is made on the diagram in the place where it is put. Thus the sample card entry shows at once that the receipt books are in the right-hand cupboard, left lower compartment, to the back, and shows it by a single mark, instead of by this roundabout description. This will illustrate the idea, which is very simple and exact. Any receptacle may be diagrammised in this way, and blank index cards made very quickly. When a new supply is stored, the person who stores it writes a card at the same time ; when a similar supply is again to hand, the card is looked up, and the same place occupied. The system seems capable of important application to business stores. A whole wall of cupboards or drawers in a shop or store, for instance, might be represented graphically on a single card, and indexed in this manner. In indexing, choose a word which will bring several supplies together, if possible ; e.g.,

Post-cards, bespoken.
 „ donation.
 „ guarantor. &c.

Library Methodology. FOUNDATION AND COMMITTEES.
B

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>30 Visitors' Book
 1 Committee
 3 Other
 5 Rota of Visitors
 32 Attendance Book for Members
 1 Returns of Attendance
 34 Election of Members
 1 Ballot Papers
 3 Co-opted Members
 5 Retiral of Members
 36 Rate
 1 British
 3 American
 5 Colonial
 7 Other
 9 Collecting
 11 Precept Forms
 13 Amount in £
 15 Rateable Value
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Mounting Catalogue Copy. A hard duty, and one which generally falls to the lot of the younger assistants, is that of mounting slips, as copy for the printer, when a catalogue is being produced. Before the mounting is begun the slips are arranged in alphabetical order. This part of the work, which is usually done by a senior, we

will deal with in a future issue. An ordinary slate is procured, which is covered with linen after the wooden frame has been taken off. A little of the paste, which should be thinned down until it resembles thick cream, is then put on the cloth which covers the slate. When the linen is moistened, the assistant may begin mounting the slips on the paper he has prepared for the purpose. Old magazines may be used up in this way. An important point is to so arrange your material that little or no walking is necessary. If the slate and paste are placed in the middle of your work, with the slips on the left, and your blank sheets on the right, it will be seen that each slip is carried *direct* to the blank sheet, the time taken to place it on the slate and lift it off again being so short that the stoppage is scarcely noticeable. Only one slip should be placed on the slate at a time, as there is a likelihood of a mistake being made by careless assistants beginning at the bottom instead of at the top of the slate if a few slips are placed on the slate at once. Care must be taken that the back of the slip is not handled after it has been on the slate. The best way to paste a slip is by gently passing the forefinger of each hand from the centre to the ends, then bring them back again towards the middle. The slip will generally bulge out as soon as you begin to bring your hands together; you then lift it by the edges with your forefinger and thumb of the right hand, and place it in its position on the blank sheet with the left hand.

Charging Checks. WHATEVER charging system is in use in a library, whether of the book, indicator, or card variety, errors will always have to be reckoned with, for no system of check can eliminate the personal equation, or provide for all eventualities. What may be done, however, is the next best thing—to make the records of the “tell-tale” order, which will enable every error to be brought home to its author. A thoroughly careless assistant will go on being careless, so long as he can do so with impunity, but he will probably make an effort to be accurate when he can no longer “blush”—I mean “grin unseen.” Many libraries use a date stamp for issue, and this, of course, is no clue whatever as to who charged the book, unless, as is done, I believe, in some libraries, each assistant has his own dating stamp, his own inking pad, and an ink of a special colour. The colour stamp seems all right when the assistants are limited to two, or perhaps three, but when more than this the plan is scarcely practicable, if for no other reason than the number of pads, which would litter the counter, waste time, and be almost sure to be used by the wrong assistant at a busy moment. But some librarian who adopts this colour check might let us have some information about it in this column? I may say that in my own case I tried the well-known small self-inking pad, but it was not a success. It had an annoying habit of hanging fire when used rapidly, and was discarded after a fair trial. What I am now doing is this. I have designated each member of the staff by a letter, starting with myself as A, but

the letter is really the designation of a staff *position*, and will remain unaffected by change in its holder. Thus, if the first junior, whose letter is G, is promoted to be second senior, he will drop G, and take the letter of the new post, which is E. Each assistant will have his own dating outfit, which is being specially made for me by the Library Supply Company. It differs from the ordinary outfit in containing an extra letter in the type, which is the letter of the assistant who is to use that particular outfit, and in the size of the holder which is made to take the extra letter. The following will be the date entry of assistant E:—

MAY 19. E

The handle of the holder will bear its letter in white, and a rack at the counter will be lettered to correspond. I have employed letters rather than numbers to designate the assistants, because there is no danger of the public misreading them as dates. They might be used for all signed records instead of name initials, with the advantage of brevity, and of non-confusion between assistants having the same or partly the same initials.



LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS.

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THE **St. Saviour's, Southwark**, Public Library has now 10,792 volumes, of which 1,341 are for reference. The total issues were 34,302 volumes. Between November 25th, 1898, and March 28th, 1898, Mr. H. D. Roberts, the Librarian, delivered nine lectures on general subjects to the juvenile frequenters of the library.

THE Vestry of **Rotherhithe** has obtained an order from the Local Government Board, under which the powers of the Library Commissioners are transferred to the Vestry.

ON June 6th, the Town Council of **Accrington** adopted the Public Libraries' Acts on the motion of the Mayor. This will secure a legacy left by the late Mr. Stansfield. Accommodation will probably be found for the Library in the building of the Mechanics' Institution. The population of Accrington is 42,000, rateable value £148,127.

THE **Jarrow** Town Council rejected the Public Libraries' Acts, on June 8th, by thirteen against eight votes.

MR. Andrew **Carnegie** has intimated his willingness to give £1,000 towards the cost of a library building for Tain, Ross-shire, provided the Public Library Act is adopted.

DURING the year 1898-9 80,987 volumes were issued from the **Hanley** Public Free Library, of which 6,499 were for reference. The stock now numbers 13,474 volumes, of which 2,812 are in the reference department.

THE **Battersea** Public Libraries now contain 42,775 volumes, of which 11,690 are for reference 287,639 volumes were issued during 1898-99, of which 166,150 were withdrawn from the Central Library. Various extensions have taken place, and Juvenile departments have been opened.

THE Tenth Annual Report of the **Croydon** Public Libraries is a record of progress in every department. The issues were 313,518, as against 293,700 in the previous year. The total number of volumes is 39,996. Fifty-three volumes were unaccounted for at the annual stocktaking, but it is explained that "The majority of these, consisting mainly of fiction, have been seven and eight years in the libraries, and are almost certainly books which have been withdrawn as worn out and not entered in the withdrawals books." All the libraries have been placed in telephonic communication, and the Braithwaite Hall is to be an Open Access Reference Library.

THE fifth report of the **Carlisle** Public Library, &c., records a stock of 20,615 volumes, and an issue of 82,606 volumes during the year ended March 25th, 1899. New catalogues have been published, and various other new departures are noted. The report contains a Report on the Library Conference at Southport, in 1898.

THE Burgh of **Banff** has been offered a gift of £1,000 by Mr. Andrew Carnegie for the purpose of erecting a library building. The Library Act was adopted a short time ago, as announced in a former issue.

At a meeting of the **Wallasey** Library Committee held the other day, the question of the opening of the Library cropped up. After hearing a statement from the Librarian the Committee came to the unanimous decision that it would be unwise to open the library with a collection of a little over 4,000 volumes for a population of 50,000. The Committee also felt that it was unfair to the librarian to rush the matter, and that if the library was to be a credit to the district, time and care should be given to the compilation of the catalogue. The Committee also decided to spend an additional £500 on the immediate purchase of books.

THE **Richmond** Public Library issued 101,889 volumes during 1898-99, a daily average of 418 as against 425 in the previous year. Fourteen days instead of seven are now allowed for the home-reading of non-fictional works. The total stock is now 25,496 volumes.

THE **Bootle** Free Library and Museum continues to prosper in all its departments—libraries, school deliveries of books, issue of books to teachers, museum, museum addresses, free lectures, and publication of a quarterly journal. The total stock is 18,772 volumes, of which 5,411 are for reference. The issues during 1898-99 amounted to 114,291 volumes.

THERE are 9,056 volumes in the **Lincoln** Public Library and the total issues during 1898-99 were 72,889 volumes.

THE Heginbottom Free Library of **Ashton-under-Lyne** now contains 16,778 volumes, and during 1898-99 issued 73,759 volumes, of which 11,881 were for reference. The issues have decreased by 11,247 volumes as compared with 1897-98, but the percentage of fiction has dropped from 75 in 1894-95 to 68 in 1898-99.

THE **Willesden** Public Libraries have issued reports for the Kilburn and Willesden Green divisions. At Kilburn the stock is now 7,990 volumes, and the total annual issues were 75,105 volumes. At Willesden Green the stock is 8,700 volumes and the total issues were 58,720 volumes.

Miss Gertrude Church, Assistant at Clerkenwell Public Library, has resigned her position to take up the Study of Artistic Designing. The members of the staff, upon the occasion of her leaving, made a presentation, which took the form of a gold bracelet.



LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS.

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THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

THE last Monthly Meeting of the Session was held at Leighton House, Kensington, on Monday, 12th June, when a considerable number of members and visitors attended. The Earl of Crawford took the chair, and the proceedings consisted of some preliminary business and a description of the house and an estimate of the late Lord Leighton as an artist, by Mr. Herbert Jones, Hon. Secretary to the Leighton House Committee. An opportunity was afforded members for seeing over the house and examining the paintings, sketches, and decorations, which are everywhere abundant. There will be no further meeting of this Association till the Annual Meeting at Manchester, which begins on September 4th.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION: NORTH-WESTERN BRANCH.

THE Third Meeting of the Summer School was held in the Town Hall, Manchester, on June 14th, 15th, and 16th, when the following Lectures were delivered:—

Ogle (John J.) "The Steps to be taken in the formation of a Public Library after the Adoption of the Acts."

Hand (T. W.) "Selection of Books."

Duff (E. Gordon) "Bookbinding."

Dent (R. K.) "Aids to Readers."

May (Wm.) "Classification: theory, practice, and value."

" " "Classification: some principal examples."

Visits were also made by the students to several of the Manchester Libraries.

LIBRARY ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION.

THE last ordinary Meeting of the Fourth Session was held on June 14th, at Clerkenwell, with Mr. J. D. Brown in the chair. Mr. L. S. Jast gave an interesting and instructive address on "Reading," which was, in the main, a plea for the subordination of reading to thinking—for the assimilation and digestion of facts rather than their accumulation—and which defined the highest use of books as the provision of materials for thought. Mr. Brown added a few remarks on the effect on Public Library issues of the present craze for reading snippets, and a vote of thanks was unanimously accorded Mr. Jast.

Mr. Fincham, Churchwarden and Library Commissioner of Clerkenwell, then gave a short sketch of the history of the meeting-place—the crypt beneath the ancient church of St. John of Jerusalem—and, before the conclusion of the meeting, votes of thanks were accorded to Mr. Brown and to Mr. Fincham.

The Annual Meeting will take place on July 19th, at 8 o'clock, at 20, Hanover Square; visitors are invited. The Annual Report is issued with the July *Library Assistant* and records progress all along the line. The Association now consists of 161 members, and has a flourishing N. W. Branch, of which the Librarian of Manchester is Hon. President.

 THE PSEUDONYMS.

CHEERED by the pleasant hope that, at last, "Sumer is a cumyn in," and somewhat bored by debates about library practice, the Pseudonyms decided to forsake the gilded *salons* of Soho for a space, and seek change of scene and topic under the greenwood tree. Seductive visions of sylvan glades and umbrageous foliage were presented in a variety of fascinating aspects by the more imaginative and enthusiastic members, but a characteristic distrust of each other prevented that unanimity in fixing upon a place which should—but never does—attend the discussion of a suitable holiday resort. Accordingly, it was happily decided by a neat application of a trigonometrical theorem that some point equidistant from Dover, Birmingham, and Bristol would be most generally acceptable. To this rendezvous the Pseudonyms flocked in two detachments, leaving behind them with little regret all the dry and unsatisfactory problems which vex the souls of ordinary librarians for fifty weeks in every year. The general idea of the manoeuvres was to seek health, exercise, country fare, temporary forgetfulness of books, readers, and rival systems, with their attendant worries, in a ramble by babbling brooks, serpentine footpaths, and leafy lanes,

"Far from the madding crowd's ignoble strife,"

but not too far from the humble, necessary inn. The objective of the expedition was—the equidistant point aforesaid—and towards it

"They kept the *noisy* tenour of their way"

enlivened by anecdote, unprofessional joke, or sage remark. At one of the shrines to which the pilgrims were bound a separation took place, one party proceeding to the ancient hall of a noble squire, there to be well entreated with abundance of cakes and jolly good ale and old ; the other, and more adventurous, party pushing into the remoter fastnesses of the boundless forest, in quest of surprises, alarms, onfalls and romance, and a bountiful but inexpensive refectation. Here also an expert limner, aided by the sun, made a picture of a few members, unwillingly torn from a plenteous repast, to pose in various attitudes of listless repose.



"There, at the foot of yonder nodding beech
That wreathes its old fantastic roots so high,
Their listless length at noontide did they stretch,
And scorned the books they earn their living by."

In order to keep abreast of the leading movements in the higher journalism, the proprietors of the *Library World* are hereby authorised to offer a

PRIZE

of sixpence for every correct identification of the individuals comprising the above picturesque group, provided it is received from librarians of over sixty years' service before the 30th day of May, 1899.

The value of these *al fresco* conferences to the Pseudonyms can hardly be over-estimated. An afternoon in the country sweeps away the cobwebs of many months' growth ; fresh and valuable light is thrown upon professional problems by the wit of many minds sponta-

neously and freely expressed ; and a return is made to the business of life with a fresh zest acquired from pure air, exercise, and a brief spell of freedom from work. Acrimonious discussion was absent ; the fads and pet theories of individual members were impartially squashed ; and the scandal which provokes

“to extasy the Living Lyre”

was supplanted by a merry cultivation of the genuine *dolce far niente* spirit. Other rambles are in contemplation, and will be duly chronicled.



SELECT LIST OF BOOKS ON SPECIAL SUBJECTS.

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ELECTRICITY.

By F. J. BURGOYNE, *Librarian, Lambeth Public Libraries,
London.*

HISTORY.

- Benjamin (P.) *Intellectual Rise in Electricity.* Longmans. 2rs.
 Caillard (E. M.) *Electricity : A Sketch for general Readers.* 7s. 6d.
 Houston (E. J.) *Electricity One Hundred Years Ago and To-day.* Whittaker.
 4s. 6d.
 Lodge (O. J.) *Modern Views of Electricity.* Macmillan. 6s. 6d.
 Mendenhall (T. C.) *Century of Electricity.* New ed. Low. 4s. 6d.
 Munro (J.) *Romance of Electricity.* R.T.S. 5s.
 ——— *Story of Electricity.* Newnes. 1s.

ELEMENTARY.

- Anderson (F. W.) *Elementary Magnetism and Electricity.*
 Angell (J.) *Elements of Magnetism and Electricity.* Collins. 1s. 6d.
 Ashworth (J. R.) *Elementary Course of Practical Exercises in Magnetism and
 Electricity.* Whittaker. 2s. 6d. *net.*
 Atkinson (P.) *Electricity for Everybody, its Nature and Uses explained.*
 Gay & Bird. 6s. *net.*
 *Biggs (C. H. W.) *First Principles of Electricity and Magnetism.* Whittaker.
 3s. 6d.
 *Bonney (G. E.) *Electrical Experiments.* 2nd ed. Whittaker. 2s. 6d.
 *Bottone (S. R.) *Electricity and Magnetism.* Whittaker. 2s. 6d.
 ——— *Popular Intro. to Electricity and Magnetism.* Whittaker. 3s. 6d.
 Burch (G. J.) *Electrical Science—University Extension Series* Methuen. 3s.
 Cumming (L.) *Electricity Treated Experimentally.* 5th ed. Longmans.
 4s. 6d.
 ——— *Electricity and Magnetism.* 2s. 6d.
 ——— *Introduction to the Theory of Electricity.* 4th ed. Macmillan.
 8s. 6d.
 Foster (G. C.) and Atkinson (E.) *Elementary Treatise on Electricity and
 Magnetism.* Longmans. 7s. 6d.
 [Founded on Joubert *Traité Élémentaire d'Electricité*]
 Gordon (J. E. H.) *Electricity for Schools.* Electrician Co. 5s.

- Henderson (J.) *Practical Electricity and Magnetism*. 6s. 6d.
 Houston (E. J.) and Kennelly (A. E.) *Electricity made Easy*. 6s.
 Jamieson (A.) *Elementary Magnetism and Electricity*. 3 parts. Griffin. 4s. 6d.
 Jude (R. H.) *Magnetism and Electricity, First Stage*. Clive. 2s.
 Knott (C. G.) *Electricity and Magnetism, Elementary Course*. Chambers. 2s. 6d.
 Maxwell (J. C.) *Elementary Treatise on Electricity*, ed. by Garnett. Clarendon Press. 7s. 6d.
 Maycock (W. P.) *First book of Electricity and Magnetism*. 2nd ed. Whittaker. 2s. 6d.
 Meadowcroft (W. H.) *The A.B.C. of Electricity*. 4th ed. 2s.
Primers of Electricity. 2 vols. Whittaker. 2s. each.
 Sanderson (F. W.) *Electricity and Magnetism for Beginners*. Macmillan, 2s. 6d.
 Sloane (T. O'Connor) *Electricity Simplified*. Third ed. Spon. 4s. 6d.
 Stewart (B.) and Gee (W. W. H.) *Lessons in Practical Physics, Vol 2. Electricity and Magnetism*. Macmillan. 7s. 6d.
 ——— Do. do. for Schools. Macmillan. 2s. 6d.
 Thompson (S. P.) *Elementary Lessons in Electricity and Magnetism*. New ed. Macmillan 4s. 6d.
 Trowbridge (J.) *What is Electricity?* Kegan Paul. 5s.
 Turner (H. H.) *Examples on Heat and Electricity*. Macmillan. 2s. 6d.
 Tyndall (J.) *Lectures in Electricity at the "Royal Institution."* 2s. 6d.
 ——— *Notes on a Course of Lectures on Electrical Phenomena*. 1s. 6d.
 Verity (J. B.) *Electricity up-to-date*. New ed. Warne. 2s. 6d.
 Woolcombe (W. G.) *Magnetism and Electricity*. Clarendon Press. 2s.

GENERAL.

- Armstrong (Lord) *Electric Movement in Air and Water*. 2nd ed. Smith Elder. £1 10s. net.
 Atkinson (P.) *Elements of Static Electricity*. 2nd ed. Whittaker. 6s. 6d.
 ——— *Dynamic Electricity and Magnetism*. Lockwood. 10s. 6d.
 Ayrton (W. E.) *Practical Electricity: Vol. I, Current, Pressure, &c.* Cassell. 9s.
 Chrystal (G.) and Shaw (W. N.) *Electricity, Electrometer, Magnetism, and Electrolysis*. Electrician Co. 5s. net.
 Curry (C. E.) *Theory of Electricity*. Macmillan. 8s. 6d.
 Du Bois (Dr. H.) *The Magnetic Circuit in Theory and Practice*. Electrician Co. 12s. net.
 Emtage (W. T. A.) *Mathematical Theory of Electricity and Magnetism*. 2nd ed. Frowde. 7s. 6d.
 Ewing (J. A.) *Magnetic Induction in Iron and other Metals*. 2nd ed. Electrician Office. 10s. 6d.
 Fiske (B. A.) *Electricity in Theory and Practice*. Spon. 10s. 6d.
 Forbes (G.) *Lectures on Electricity before the "Society of Arts."* 5s.
 Gerard (E.) *Lessons in Electricity and Magnetism*. Whittaker. 10s. 6d.
 Gray (A.) *Treatise on Magnetism and Electricity, Vol. I*. Macmillan. 14s. net.
 Guillemin (A.) *Electricity and Magnetism; trans. by S. P. Thompson*. Macmillan. 31s. 6d.
 Heaviside (O.) *Electrical Papers*. 2 Vols. Macmillan. o.p.
 ——— *Electro-Magnetic Theory*. Whittaker. 12s. 6d.
 Hertz (H.) *Electric Waves*. Macmillan 10s. net.
 Houston (E. J.) *Advanced Primers*. Whittaker.
 Vol. I.—*Electricity and Magnetism*. 8s. 6d.
 Vol. II.—*Electrical Measurements*. 5s.
 Vol. III.—*Electrical Transmission of Intelligence*. 5s.
 Houston (E. J.) and Kennelly (A. E.) *Electro-Magnetism*. Electrician Co. 4s. 6d.
 Kelvin (Lord) *Papers on Electro Statics and Magnetism*. 2nd ed. 18s.
 Lockwood (T. D.) *Electricity, Magnetism, and Electric Telegraphy*. 2nd ed. Spon. 12s. 6d.
 Maxwell (J. C.) *Electricity and Magnetism*. 3rd ed. 2 Vols. Clarendon Press. 32s.

- Noad (H. M.) Students' Text Book of Electricity. New ed. Ed. by Preece. Lockwood. 9s.
- Practical Electrics; A Universal Handybook on Everyday Electrical Matters. 3rd ed. Spon. 3s. 6d.
- Sloane (T. O'Connor) Arithmetic of Electricity. 4th ed. Spon. 4s. 6d.
- Sprague (J. T.) Electricity, its Theory, Sources, and Applications. 3rd ed. Spon. 15s.
- Stewart (R. W.) Text Book of Magnetism and Electricity. 3rd ed. Clive. 3s. 6d.
- Thomson (J. J.) Mathematical Theory of Electricity and Magnetism. Frowde. 10s.
- Recent researches in Electricity and Magnetism. Frowde. 18s. 6d.
- The Discharge of Electricity through Gases. Constable. 4s. 6d. net.
- Watson (H. W.) and Burbury (S. H.) Mathematical Theory of Electricity. 2 Vols. Frowde. 21s.
- Webster (A. G.) Theory of Electricity and Magnetism. Macmillan. 14s.

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING.

GENERAL WORKS.

- Beaumont (W. W.) Practical Electrical Engineering. 2 Vols.
- Biggs (C. H. W.) First Principles of Electrical Engineering. 2nd ed. Whittaker. 2s. 6d.
- Brackett (C. F.) Electricity in Daily Life.
- Carter (E. T.) Motive Power and Gearing for Electrical Machinery. Whittaker. 12s. 6d.
- Cushing (H. C.) Standard Wiring for Electric Light and Power. Spon. 4s. 6d.
- De Graffigny (Henry) Industrial Electricity. Whittaker. 2s. 6d.
- Desmond (Ch.) Electricity for Engineers. Revised ed. Electrician Co. 10s. 6d.
- Electricity in Daily Life. Paul. 9s.
- Fleming (J. A.) Lectures to Electrical Artisans.
- Foote (A. R.) Economic Value of Electric Light and Power. Spon. 4s.
- Forbes (Geo.) Electric Lighting from Central Stations. Spon. 1s.
- Foster (Horatio A.) Central Station Management and Finance. Spon. 7s. 6d.
- Gay (A.) and Yeaman (C. H.) Central Station Electricity Supply. Whittaker.
- Gray (J.) Electrical Influence Machines. Whittaker. 4s. 6d.
- Guy (A. F.) Electric Light and Power. Whittaker. 5s.
- Hedges (K.) Continental Electric Light Central Stations. Spon. 15s.
- Hospitalier (E.) Domestic Electricity for Amateurs. Spon. 6s.
- Joyce (S.) Examples in Electrical Engineering. Longmans. 5s.
- Kingdon (J. A.) Applied Magnetism. Whittaker. 7s. 6d.
- Lintern (W.) The Motor Engineer's and Electrical Worker's Handbook. Spon.
- Lodge (O. J.) Lightning Conductors and Lightning Guards. Whittaker. 15s.
- Maycock (W. P.) Electric Wiring and Fitting Details Book. Whittaker. 2s. 6d. net.
- Electric Wiring, Fittings, Switches, and Lamps. Whittaker. 5s.
- Noll (A.) How to Wire Buildings. 4th ed. Whittaker. 6s.
- Practical Electrical Engineering, by various authors. 2 Vols. Biggs. 42s.
- Raphael (F. C.) Localisation of Faults in Electric Light Mains. Whittaker. 5s.
- Robb (R.) Electric Wiring. Electrician Co. 16s.
- Slingo (W.) and Brooker (A.) Electrical Engineering for Artisans and Students. New ed. Longmans. 12s.
- Southam (A. D.) Electrical Engineering as a Profession. 2nd ed. Whittaker. 3s. 6d. net.
- Stephens (F. J. W.) Electrical Installations for Architects, Borough Surveyors, and others. Electrician Co. 2s. 6d.
- Thompson (Silvanus P.) Electricity in Mining. Spon. 2s.
- Tunzelmann (G. W. von) Electricity in Modern Life. Scott. 3s. 6d.

- Urbanitzky (A. R. von.) *Electricity in the Service of Man.* New ed., revised by Walmsley. Cassell. 7s. 6d.
 Walker (S. F. H.) *Electricity in our Homes and Workshops.* 3rd ed. Whittaker. 6s.
 Walmsley (R.) *The Electric Current, how produced and how used.* Cassell. 10s. 6d.

BELLS, BATTERIES, COILS, AND INSTRUMENTS.

- Allsop (F. C.) *Electric Bell Construction, Indicators, &c.* Spon. 3s. 6d.
 ——— *Induction Coils and Coil Making.* 3rd ed. Spon. 3s. 6d.
 ——— *Practical Electric Bell Fitting.* 7th ed. Spon. 3s. 6d.
 Badt (F. B.) *Bell-Hangers' Handbook.* 3rd ed. Spon. 4s. 6d.
 Bonney (G. E.) *Induction Coils.* Whittaker. 3s.
 Bottone (S. R.) *Electric Bells.* 5th ed. Whittaker. 3s.
 ——— *Electrical Instrument Making for Amateurs.* 6th ed. Whittaker. 3s.
 Carhart (H. S.) *Primary Batteries.* Electrician Co. 6s.
 Niaudet (A.) *Elementary Treatise on Electric Batteries.* 6th ed. Electrician Co. 10s. 6d. *net.*
 Norrie (H. S.) *Ruhmkorff Induction Coils.* Spon. 2s.
 Wright (L.) *The Induction Coil in Practice and Work.* Electrician Co. 4s.

DYNAMOS AND MOTORS, ELECTRO-MAGNETS, ARMATURES, TRANSFORMERS.

- Bottone (S. R.) *Electro-Motors* 3rd ed. Whittaker 3s.
 ——— *How to Manage the Dynamo.* 2nd ed. Whittaker. 1s.
 ——— *The Dynamo.* Whittaker. 2s. 6d.
 Carus-Wilson (C. A.) *Electro Dynamics: The Direct Current Motor.* Electrician Co. 7s. 6d.
 Cox (F. B.) *Continuous-Current Dynamos and Motors.* Whittaker. 7s. 6d.
 Croker (F. B.) *Electric Lighting:—*
 Vol. I.—*The Generating Plant.* Spon. 12s. 6d.
 ——— *Management of Dynamos and Motors.* 4th ed. Spon. 4s. 6d.
 Crofts (A.) *How to make a Dynamo.* 5th ed. Crosby Lockwood. 2s.
 Du Moncel (C.) *Elements of Construction for Electro-Motors.* Spon. 4s. 6d.
 Fisher-Hinnen (J.) *Continuous Current Dynamos.* Biggs. 10s. 6d.
 Fleming (J. A.) *Magnets and Electric Currents.* Spon. 7s. 6d.
 Gibbings (A. H.) *Dynamo Attendants and their Dynamos.* 2nd ed. Whittaker. 1s.
 Hawkins (C. C.) and Wallis (F.) *The Dynamo, its Theory, Design and Manufacture.* 2nd ed. Whittaker. 10s. 6d.
 Hering (C.) *Practical Directions for Winding Magnets for Dynamos.* Electrician Co. 3s. 6d.
 Hopkinson (J.) *Original Papers on Dynamo Machinery.* Whittaker. 5s.
 Houston (E. J.) and Kennelly (A. E.) *Electro-Dynamic Machinery.* Electrician Co. 10s. 6d.
 Jackson (D. E.) *Electro-Magnetism, and the construction of Dynamos.* Macmillan. Vol. 1. 9s. *net.* Vol. 2. 14s. *net.*
 Kennelly (A. E.) *Theoretical Elements of Electro-Dynamic Machinery.* Vol. 1. Spon. 4s. 6d.
 Lummis-Paterson (G. W.) *The Management of Dynamos.* 3s. 6d. Crosby Lockwood.
 MacFadden (C. K.) and Ray (Wm. D.) *The Practical Application of Dynamo Electrical Machinery.* Electrician Co. 4s. 6d.
 Parham (E. C.) and Shedd (J. C.) *Shop and Road Testing of Dynamos and Motors.* Whittaker, 8s. 6d.
 Parkhurst (C. D.) *Dynamo and Motor Building for Amateurs.* Whittaker. 4s. 6d.
 Parshall (H. F.) and Hobart (H. M.) *Armature Windings of Electric Machines.* Whittaker. 30s
 Prescott (G. B.) *Dynamo-Electricity* Spon. 21s.
 Sloane (T. O'Conor) *Electric Toy, Dynamo, and Motor Construction.* Spon. 4s. 6d.

- Thompson (Silvanus P.) Dynamo-Electric Machinery. 7th ed. Spon. 24s.
 ——— Supplement to above. Spon. 4s. 6d.
 ——— Electro-Magnet and Electro-Magnet Mechanism. 2nd ed. Spon. 15s.
 Trevert (Ed.) How to Build Dynamo-Electric Machinery. Electrician Co.
 10s. 6d.
 Urquhart (J. W.) Dynamo Construction. New ed. Lockwood. 7s. 6d.
 Walker (F.) Practical Dynamo Building for Amateurs. 2nd ed. Whittaker.
 2s.
 Weymouth (F. M.) Drum Armatures and Commutators. Whittaker. 7s. 6d.
 Wiener (A. E.) The Practical Application of Dynamo-Electric Machines.
 Whittaker. 12s.

LAMPS, LIGHTING, HEATING.

- Allsop (F. C.) Practical Electric-Light Fitting. 4th ed. Whittaker. 5s.
 Bax (J.) Popular Electric Lighting. 2nd ed. Whittaker. 2s.
 Bottone (S. R.) Guide to Electric Lighting. Whittaker. 1s.
 Dredge (J., *Editor*) Electric Illumination, reprinted from "Engineering."
 2 Vols. Whittaker. 60s.
 Fleming (J. A.) Electric Lamps and Electric Lighting: Lectures before the
 Royal Institution. Whittaker. 7s. 6d.
 Hedges (K.) Precautions to be adopted in introducing the Electric Light.
 Electrician Co. 2s. 6d.
 Houston (E. J.) and Kennelly (A. E.) Electric Arc Lighting. Electrician Co.
 4s. 6d.
 ——— Electric Heating. Electrician Co. 4s. 6d.
 ——— Electric Incandescent Lighting. Electrician Co. 4s. 6d.
 Kennedy (R.) Photographic and Optical Electric Lamps. Whittaker. 2s. 6d.
 Knight (J. H.) Electric Light for Country Houses. 2nd ed. Crosby. 1s.
 Latimer (L. H.) Incandescent Electric Lighting. Spon. 2s.
 May (O.) Popular Instructor for the Management of Electric Lighting Plant.
 Whittaker. 2s. 6d.
 Ram (G. S.) The Incandescent Lamp and its Manufacture. Whittaker. 7s. 6d.
 Randall (J. H.) Practical Treatise on the Incandescent Lamp. Spon. 2s. 6d.
 Reagen (H. C.) Electrical Engineers' and Students' Chart and Handbook of
 the Brush Arc Light System. Spon. 4s. 6d.
 Salomons (Sir D.) Electric Light Installations. Whittaker.
 Vol. I.—Accumulators. 8th ed. 5s.
 Vol. II.—Apparatus. 7th ed. 7s. 6d.
 Vol. III.—Application. 7th ed. 5s.
 Swinton (A. A. C.) Elementary Principles of Electric Lighting. 3rd ed. Crosby.
 1s. 6d.
 Urquhart (J. W.) Electric Ship Lighting. Crosby. 7s. 6d.
 ——— The Electric Light. 6th ed. Crosby. 7s. 6d.
 ——— Electric Light Fitting. 3rd ed. Crosby. 5s.
 Walker (S. F.) Colliery Lighting by Electricity. Electrician Co. 2s. 6d.
 ——— Electric Lighting for Marine Engineers. 2nd ed. Whittaker. 5s.

RAILWAYS, TRACTION.

- Atkinson (P.) Electric Transformation of Power and the Electric Motor.
 Lockwood. 7s. 6d.
 Atkinson (J. L.) Electric Power, Motor, and Railway Construction.
 Lockwood. 7s. 6d.
 Bell (Dr. L.) Power Distribution for Electric Railroads. Electrician Co. 11s.
 Crosby (O. T.) and Bell (L.) Electric Railway in Theory and Practice. 3rd ed.
 Dawson (P.) Electric Railways and Tramways, their Construction and Oper-
 ation. Whittaker. 42s. *net*.
 ——— Electric Traction. Whittaker. 12s. 6d. *net*.
 Hedges (K.) American Electric Street Railways. Spon. 12s. 6d.
 Hering (C.) Recent Progress in Electric Railways. Whittaker. 5s.
 Houston (E. J.) and Kennelly (A. E.) The Electric Motor. Electrician Co. 4s. 6d.
 Langdon (W. E.) Application of Electricity to Railway Working. Spon.
 10s. 6d.

- Martin (T. C.) and Sachs (J.) *Electrical Boats and Navigation.* Electrician Co. 10s. 6d.
 Martin (T. C.) and Wetzler (J.) *The Electric Motor and its Application.* 4th ed. Spon. 12s. 6d.
 Perry (N. W.) *Electric Railway Motors: their Construction, Operation, and Maintenance.* Whittaker. 4s. 6d.
 Prindle (H. B.) *The Electric Railway of To-day.* Electrician Co. 2s. 6d.
 Reckenzaun (A.) *Electric Traction.* Biggs. 10s. 6d.
 Rider (J. H.) *Electric Traction.* Whittaker. 3s. 6d.
 Scholey (H.) *Electric Tramways and Railways popularly Explained.* Whittaker. 2s.
 Trevert (E.) *Electric Railway Engineering.* Electrician Co. 8s.
 Urquhart (J. W.) *Electro-Motors.* Electrician Co. 7s. 6d.
 Westinghouse and Baldwin's *Systems of Electric Locomotives.* Electrician Co. 5s.
 Wilson (E.) *Electrical Traction.* Arnold 5s.

TRANSMISSION OF POWER, STORAGE.

- Abbot (A. V.) *The Electrical Transmission of Energy.* Electrician Co. 25s. *net.*
 Badt (F. B.) *Electric Transmission Handbook.* Whittaker 4s. 6d.
 Bedell (Dr. F.) and Crehore (Dr. A. C.) *Alternating Currents.* 2nd ed. Whittaker. 10s. 6d.
 Bell (L.) *Electrical Power Transmission.* Whittaker. 10s. 6d.
 Blakesley (T. H.) *Alternating Currents of Electricity.* 3rd ed. Whittaker. 5s.
 Du Moncel (Count) and Gerdal (Frank) *Electricity as a Motive Power.* Spon. 7s. 6d.
 Emmett (W. L.) *Alternating Current Wiring and Distribution.* Electrician Co. 4s. 6d.
 Fleming (J. A.) *The Alternate Current Transformer in Theory and Practice.* 2 Vols. Whittaker.
 Vol. I.—*The Induction of Electric Currents.* New ed. 12s. 6d.
 Vol. II.—*The Application of Induced Currents.* 12s. 6d.
 Forbes (G.) *Electric Currents, Alternating and Interrupted.* Whittaker.
 Gibbings (A. H.) *The Applications of Motors to small Industrial purposes.* Whittaker.
 Haskins (C. D.) *Transformers; their Theory, Construction, and Application simplified.* Spon. 4s. 6d.
 Hay (A.) *The Principles of Alternate Current Working.* Whittaker. 5s.
 Hospitalier (E.) *Polyphased Alternating Currents.* 3s. 6d.
 Houston (E. J) and Kennelly (A. E.) *Alternating Electric Currents.* Electrician Co. 4s. 6d.
 Kapp (G.) *Alternating Currents of Electricity.* Whittaker. 4s. 6d.
 ——— *Dynamos, Alternators and Transformers.* Whittaker. 10s. 6d.
 ——— *Electric Transmission of Energy.* 4th ed. Whittaker. 10s. 6d.
 ——— *Transformers for Single and Multiphase Currents.* Whittaker. 6s.
 Kilgour (M. H.) *Electrical Distribution.* Whittaker. 10s. 6d.
 Loppé and Bouquet's *Alternate Currents in Practice.* Whittaker. 15s.
 Maycock (W. P.) *Alternating Current Circuit.* Whittaker. 2s. 6d.
 ——— *Electric Lighting and Power Distribution, an Elementary Manual of* 4th ed. Whittaker. 6s.
 Niblett (J. T.) *Portative Electricity.* Whittaker. 2s. 6d.
 ——— *Secondary Batteries for Storage.* Biggs. 3s. 6d.
 Planté (G.) *The Storage of Electrical Energy.* Whittaker. 12s.
 Reynier (Emile) *The Voltaic Accumulator.* Spon. 9s.
 Russell (S. A.) *Electric Light Cables and the Distribution of Electricity.* Whittaker. 7s. 6d.
 Scott (E. K.) *Local Distribution of Power in Workshops.* Biggs. 2s.
 Snell (A. T.) *Electric Motive Power.* Whittaker. 10s. 6d.
 Steinmetz (C. P.) *The Theory and Calculation of Alternating Current Phenomena.* Whittaker. 10s. 6d.
 Still (A.) *Alternating Currents of Electricity and Theory of Transformers.* Whittaker. 5s.

- Tesla (N.) Experiments with Alternate Currents of High Potential and High Frequency. Whittaker. 4s. 6d.
 Thompson (Silvanus P.) Polyphase Electric Currents and Alternate Current Motors. Spon. 12s. 6d.
 Treadwell (A.) The Storage Battery. Whittaker. 7s. 6d.
 Unwin (W. C.) On the Development and Transmission of Power from Central Stations. Electrician Co. 10s. *net*.
 Uppenborn (F.) History of the Transformer. Spon. 3s.
 Weekes (R. W.) Alternate Current Transformer Design. Biggs. 2s.



CORRESPONDENCE.

o o o

THE LINOTYPE IN CATALOGUE PRINTING.

To the Editor of the LIBRARY WORLD.

As a practical printer, and one who has had considerable experience in the printing of library catalogues, I venture to reply to Mr. Aldred's interesting article in your May issue. While the idea is a very good one, it is not such a saver of labour and money as Mr. Aldred seems to think.

First of all, an ordinary catalogue (*i.e.*, one interspersed with small caps, italics, or black type) would cost considerably more to set by linotype than by hand, as every letter of small caps, italics or black type, has to be put into the "assembly" by hand, and for this the operator is paid at the rate of one line extra for each word so inserted. I might add I never saw a catalogue set all in one type.

Then Mr. Aldred says that as soon as the lines leave the linotype they are ready for the chase. What about the make-up, *i.e.*, making up the pages into equal lengths, filling in blanks, setting head and cross lines, reading and correcting?—all of which have to be done before it is put into chase. In addition to this, linotype matter takes longer to make ready (prepare for printing) on machine than ordinary type.

Of course, it would be cheaper to purchase the lino metal than to purchase type, and here would be the great, and, in fact, the only saving. Mr. Aldred is evidently unaware that the price of metal has lately increased, and that lino metal now costs about 22/- or 23/- per cwt.; therefore it should fetch at least 3½d. per lb. when set in linotype bars.

I doubt very much if a printer could be found willing to set new entries a few at a time, as Mr. Aldred suggests. There is considerable time expended on the linotype before it is ready to work, such as changing magazine or measure, and in the case of a machine standing idle, the metal would have to be heated. Surely no printer would go to this trouble and expense to set a few lines. He would wait for all the corrections to come in, knowing that, on account of insertions and deletions, the whole catalogue would have to be re-made up, and most likely re-imposed, *i.e.*, taken out of the chase and put back again after the re-make up.

42, Lower Road, S.E.

C. H. LEMMON.

STUDIES IN LIBRARY PRACTICE.

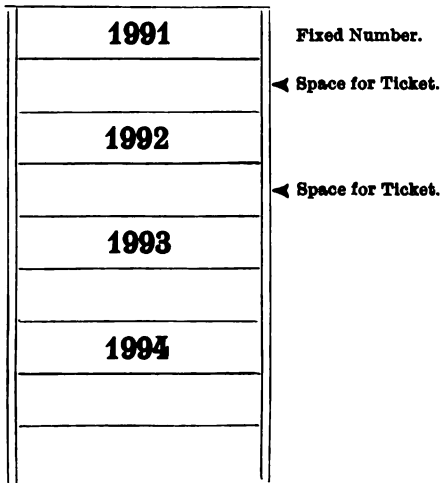
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I.—THE HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION OF LIBRARY CHARGING SYSTEMS. PART II.—INDICATORS. By JAMES D. BROWN, *Clerkenwell Public Library, London.*

(Continued from page 1, Vol. 2.)

DENT INDICATOR, 1869.

IN the second edition of Greenwood's "Public Libraries," 1887, p. 137, there is a description of the Dent Indicator, from which it may be gathered that such an indicator was actually constructed. The inventor, however, is of opinion that his idea never got so far as realization in material form, though there can be hardly any doubt that Mr. Dent's indicator is the first to combine indicating with charging, and that it suggested several succeeding devices. His account of it is interesting, as it mentions the existence of an early form of card indicator which has since been re-invented in various styles. "A certain Mr. Christie, Librarian of the Constitution Hill Branch Library (Birmingham), about 1868, constructed a small rack with cards bearing the titles of a selection of the books in history, science, &c., open to the public, and the presence of one of these tickets in the rack indicated that the book was 'in.' If anyone wished to take one of the books thus shown, he lifted the ticket out of the rack (there was no glass in front) and handed it to the attendant who put it in a box till the book came back, and then replaced it almost anywhere in the

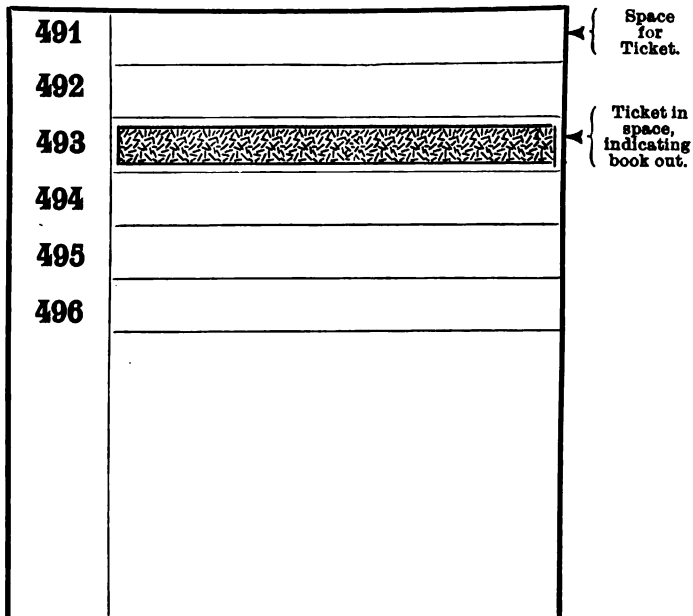


rack. This gave me an idea that the cumbersome system of day-book, posting-book, and constant piles of books to be marked off as returned might be done away with, if tickets in a rack representing every number in the library were substituted for book-entry, &c." Mr. Dent's improvement upon this idea consisted in the provision of a series of numbered shelves in columns, with spaces between to take the borrowers' cards when the books were out. The back of the borrower's card was to be ruled to allow of numbers and dates being pencilled thereon, and, of course, the presence of a borrower's card under a number indicated a book "out."

This idea of Mr. Dent's was described to a number of librarians, among others to Mr. Barrett and Mr. Elliot of Wolverhampton, and though it was entirely concerned with charging, not indicating, there can hardly be a doubt that it contained the germs of several indicators since invented. The year following the publication of Mr. Dent's idea saw the practical accomplishment of a combined charging and indicating device which is well known to most librarians. This was the

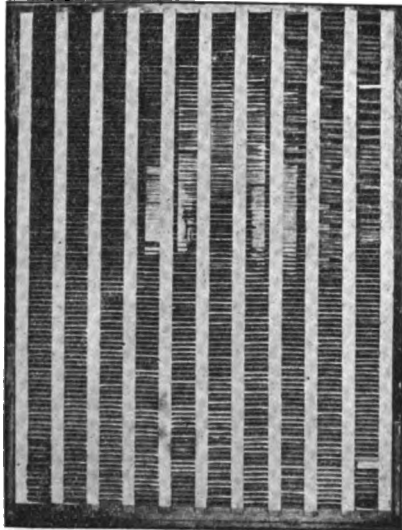
ELLIOT INDICATOR, 1870,

which is very fully described in a pamphlet entitled "A Practical Explanation of the safe and rapid method of Issuing Library Books, by J. Elliot, inventor of the system." Wolverhampton, 1870. This pamphlet gives diagrams and descriptions of the Elliot Indicator in substantially the same form in which it exists at the present day. It differs from Mr. Dent's idea in having the numbers alongside the



ticket shelves or spaces, instead of over them, and in having a specially thick borrower's ticket with coloured ends to show books out and overdue. The Indicator is a large frame, divided into columns by wide uprights carrying 100 numbers each, which correspond with the little shelves, formed of tin, dividing each column.

There are 100 shelves and numbers in every column, and the indicator is made in several sizes, according to the width of the borrower's card used. The public side is covered with glass. The method of working is simple. The borrower scans the indicator till he finds the space opposite the number he wants vacant. This indicates that the book he wants is in, and he then hands his ticket to the assistant, stating the number of the book he requires. The assistant enters the book number and date of issue in the borrower's card, and inserts it in the indicator in the space against the number. The book is then fetched, and before issue it is registered on a specially ruled day-sheet, by means of a stroke, to record the day's circulation for statistical purposes. When the book is returned its number directs to the space on the indicator occupied by the borrower's card, which is withdrawn and returned to the owner, when all liability for fines is cleared. Overdues are detected by means of differently coloured ends to the borrowers' cards, or the periodical examination of the indicator. Good examples of this indicator in actual use are to be seen at Wolverhampton, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and Paisley. Our illustration is from a photograph of a section of the Elliot Indicator at Brentford, specially taken for this article by Mr. F. Turner, the Librarian.



SECTION OF ELLIOT INDICATOR.

II.—CLASSIFIED AND ANNOTATED CATALOGUING :
SUGGESTIONS AND RULES. By L. STANLEY JAST,
Librarian, Croydon Public Libraries.

(Continued from page 9).

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The Heading (*Concluded*).

The Forename.

50. In a dictionary catalogue there is something to be said for full forenames, though I cannot agree with Cutter that

The advantages of full forenames are so considerable that any cataloguer who is relieved from the necessity of the greatest possible compression ought to give them.

Whatever these considerable advantages may be, they dwindle to the vanishing point in the classified catalogue. As said by Cutter

Under subjects it is rare that two persons of even the same family name come together, and initials are sufficient.

But I am in favour of the middle way, as exemplified in the following excellent rule :—

51. If there is but one forename, put in full ; if more, put initials only. Thus **Cromie, Robert**, but **Croker, B. M.** This rule leaves (being designed, I think, chiefly to this end) just those authors always thought of by their full names, *e.g.*, **Bayard Taylor**, undisturbed.

52. In applying the rule, forenames dropped by an author are not to be dragged from their oblivion. Thus, enter **Dickens, Charles**, not **Dickens, C. J. H.**, because he happened to be christened Charles John Huffam Dickens. Call an author by what he chooses to call himself.

53. Enter all title prefixes, *e.g.*, *Rev.*, *Col.*, *Sir*, &c., using the accepted abbreviations. And enter exactly as, and only when they are employed by the writers as parts of their names. A writer may be a professor, a colonel, &c., and may so describe himself on the title-page, but, unless he employs the designation as part of his name, it is not to be entered. Thus write **Henslow, Rev. Prof., G.**, but **Huxley, T. H.**, because the latter did not describe himself as professor.

54. Disregard title suffixes, *e.g.*, *LL.D.*, *M.D.*, &c.

Dual and Multi-Authorship.

55. When there is a dual authorship, enter under both authors, referring to the second always in the author index, and under the topic when it seems called for. Write **O'Gorman, Daniel, and Young, J. R.**, not **O'Gorman, Daniel, and J. R. Young**. Two arrangements of surname and forename in the same heading is awkward. Refer like this, **Young, J. R.** See **O'Gorman, Daniel, and Young**.

56. When there are more than two authors, enter under the first, and add, *and Others*.

57. This applies only to dual or multi-authorship of a single treatise. When there are several distinct treatises by various authors, these (the authors) should appear as such. Take one of the Badminton volumes—say that on Fencing—which is incorrectly or awkwardly entered in many catalogues. The following form of entry is recommended for this and similar books:—

Pollock, W. H., and Others. Fencing; Boxing; by **E. B. Michell**; Wrestling; by **W. Armstrong**.

Here *and Others* refers only to "Fencing," which, having more than two authors, comes under rule 56. The Badminton volume on Tennis is entered

Heathcote, J. M. Tennis; Lawn Tennis; by **C. J. Heathcote and Others**; Rackets; by **E. O. P. Bouverie**; Fives; by **A. C. Ainger**.

Different Forms of Author's Names.

58. Of authors' names found in more than one form, choose one (best known or arbitrary choice) and enter thus, **Bidpai** (*called also Pilpay*).

(*To be continued.*)

NOTE—Corrections.—There were several printer's errors in the last article, pp. 5-9, which readers should correct. Reference is to paragraph.

27 *line 2.* Insert the italicised word: "it is an author catalogue first and anything *else* afterwards."

43 *line 2.* "Lyton, Edward Bulwer, H., *Lord*," should be Lyton, Edward Bulwer-, *Lord*.

49 *line 3.* Insert a comma after "Jordan."

line 4. Insert a full stop after bracket.



THE FOREIGN SECTION IN THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

By FRANK E. CHENNELL, *Librarian, Willesden Green.*

o o o

FOR years past, I believe, the majority of our Public Libraries throughout the Kingdom have abstained from providing literature other than that written in the English language. While the librarian will, as a rule, gladly accept and find accommodation for any gifts of works in foreign languages, he apparently hesitates even to suggest their purchase to his committee. The result is that many a competent student, anxious to read in the original, some of the masterpieces of the literature of other nations, finds the library wanting in this matter, and is often compelled to rely upon garbled, or even muti-

lated translations. This state of affairs is, however, slowly changing for the better, if one may be permitted to infer so from numerous enquiries, made by librarians, as to the use made by readers of a foreign section, containing between 500 and 600 carefully chosen works, instituted some two years ago, in connection with the Willesden Green Library.

In every community there exist numbers of scholars, young and old, who possess the ability to read, understand, and enjoy the best thoughts of the writers of other countries, in their original languages. Every librarian must have met with the reader who desires a work in its original language, disdaining the translation, and it must always be a pleasure to supply his wants in this direction. In the selection of works for a foreign section, the librarian will probably give preference to the literature of our neighbours across the Channel. The study of French is now followed in every Board School, it is always an item on the programme of Evening Classes, and generally figures upon the syllabus of every Technical Institute throughout the country. With all this study it will be apparent how valuable to the student must be the provision of books in the French language in the Public Library. The librarian, having made his selection will soon find numbers of his borrowers eager to grasp the opportunity afforded them of supplementing their studies at the school, and at the same time becoming conversant with many of the choicest examples of foreign authors. Some may object to such a provision of foreign literature on the ground that the average librarian has quite sufficient to do in keeping *au courant* with the enormous output of our own national literature without being burdened with that of other countries. It must be stated, however, that the institution of a fairly representative foreign section would not entail much additional labour, nor call for any great perspicacity on the part of the worthy *bibliothécaire*. Every librarian is, or should be, conversant with the best writings of Balzac, Victor Hugo, Alphonse Daudet, Jules Claretie, Sainte-Beuve, Dumas (*père et fils*), Edmond About, Tony Révillon, Pierre Loti, George Sand, Emile Richebourg, Zola and Paul Féval. This, it will be conceded, is requiring but a modest effort on the part of the librarian, considering that the Library Association expects assistants to possess information concerning comparatively obscure names like Bungener, Ribot, Amiel, Mme. Craven, D'Abrantes and De Raguse, (*vide* Questions set at Examinations, 1896 and 1897, in "Library Association Year Book.")

A complete set of the works of the authors mentioned above, would alone form a capital and readable French section. A selection, in one or two cases, would doubtless be advisable. Further, a student has surely some reason to expect to obtain, if he should so prefer it, his Molière, Racine, Manzoni, Dante, Goethe, Lessing, Schiller, Le Sage, Voltaire, De Stael, and even Rabelais in the language in which each was first given to the world. I am afraid, however, that very few public libraries are, at present, in a position to confer this benefit upon their readers.

It is some two years ago since the Willesden Green foreign section was originated with a small number of gifts from residents (in answer

to an appeal) and the purchase of a select few volumes. The demand for these was sufficient to warrant an early extension of the section. The Institution was fortunate in having upon the committee a gentleman, who took a deep interest in the development of the new feature of the work of the library. During a short stay in Paris, he daily patrolled the *quais*, and as a result of many excursions, added to our shelves over 300 volumes of French and German literature. Like the quack medicine vendor of to-day, one would like to publish a few of the many testimonials received from readers who make use of these books. This, however, is practically impossible, as the expressions of appreciation have mostly been verbal, but there can be no doubt that the best encomiums are the records on the issue labels in the actual books. In the Annual Report of the Willesden Green Library for the past year the following figures have been given, showing the issues of the most popular works—many of the volumes have not been in the library twelve months :—

Zola, "La Débâcle," 42. Courteline, "Madelon, Margot et Cie," 40. Daudet, "Tartarin sur les Alpes," 40. Sand, "Jeanne," 40; "Consuelo," 38; "Adriani," 27. Balzac, "La Cousine Bette," 28. Dumas, "Les trois Mousquetaires," 39; "Une fille de Régent," 23. Ohnet, "Le Maître de Forges," 30. Richebourg, "Jean Loup," 28. De Musset's Comédies has found 10 readers during the year; Molière 4; Racine 4; and Goethe's "Faust" 9.

The list could, of course, be expanded, but space forbids. The same reason compels one to make but a passing reference to the numbers of foreigners, resident everywhere in our midst, to whom the foreign department, with its stores of literature in their native tongue, must ever be a pleasure.

It will surely be readily admitted that even the above figures evince ample justification for an expenditure on literature of this nature. It will be seen, and probably remarked upon, that the books issued are chiefly works of fiction, but there can be no doubt that they have been in many ways of educational value to students. It must not be inferred that the writer is unaware of much that is being done in the provision of foreign literature at other libraries. It is, however, a fact to be verified by a glance at most of the catalogues issued from time to time by Public Libraries throughout the country, that no serious or systematic attempt is made to purchase even a small collection of works in foreign languages. The inclusion of these would prove an invaluable aid to the linguistic student, and an undoubted boon to "the stranger within our gates."



Kingston-upon-Thames Public Library now contains 10,623 volumes, and the annual issues in 1898-99 were 69,042 volumes, an increase of 15,877 over the previous year. The special efforts to meet the needs of school children have been successful.

MORE ABOUT THE ARRANGEMENT OF PERIODICALS.

By THOS. E. MAW, Librarian, Stanley Public Library, King's Lynn.

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IT is only by attention to such *trivial* matters as Mr. Baker wrote about in last month's *World*, that a Public Reading Room is made not only a thing of beauty, but, let us hope, a joy for ever. A Reading Room is, to a large section of the ratepayers of a town, the only part of the library which is worth paying for, as there is no Frankenstein-like eighty per cent. fiction there. It is certainly somewhat remarkable that many of those who read regularly the best periodical literature in a Public Reading Room never borrow books. This being so, it is only right that a little thought should be spared from the labours of cataloguing and classification to make straight the pathway of the reader of reviews or technical papers.

It is anything but soothing to wander round a room (kicking chairs and an occasional ankle) looking for your *Spectator*, picking up every case but *the one*, and eventually finding it under the *Sketch*, which the deaf man is reading. You sit down, and after getting into a very interesting article on "The Foundations of Belief," a flavour of onions disturbs you and a hoarse voice croaks "'Ave yer the Hinglish Mechanic there?" Of course you havn't.

Such has been the experience of every reader, gentle or other, and if librarians would descend from their pedestals and read the *Athenæum* in their Reading Room, they would try not a few ways to change existing conditions.

The suggestion by Mr. Baker that cases should be coloured is not the way out of it. Imagine the crazy-pattern of the tables when the cases are in their pristine beauty, and the difficulty of distinguishing the colours after a few months' handling.

The method which now obtains at Gateshead was adopted two years ago (after many experiments) and has been found very satisfactory.

Each periodical, other than a magazine or review is in a good case; the cases are arranged to allow elbow-room to readers and a chair is allotted to each one; the recto is bored in the middle and screwed to the table with a *flat* washer under the case and a *concave* washer above, which takes the screw heads and allows the case play. Besides the case being lettered, there is a bevelled slip of wood two inches high running the length of the tables, and opposite each case a printed title is pasted on the slip.

The magazines and reviews are placed in a wall-rack, and on each cover a small slip is pasted asking readers to replace them when done with.

An additional help is given readers by roughly classifying the periodicals. The illustrated weeklies are together—nearest the staff,

for supervision—and the order works through the technical papers to the literary weeklies. By this method you have the lion and the lamb—I mean the *Saturday* and *Spectator*—lying together, and the builder can shuffle from one chair to another while spending his Saturday afternoon with the *Building News*, *Builder*, *Carpenter and Builder*, &c.

A secondary consideration is that the life of the case is trebled.

For such papers as are not deserving of covers (!) a wire hanging rack was made, which contains everything for those in search of the latest ideas on Food Reform or the Lost Ten Tribes.



LITERARY LIBRARIANS.

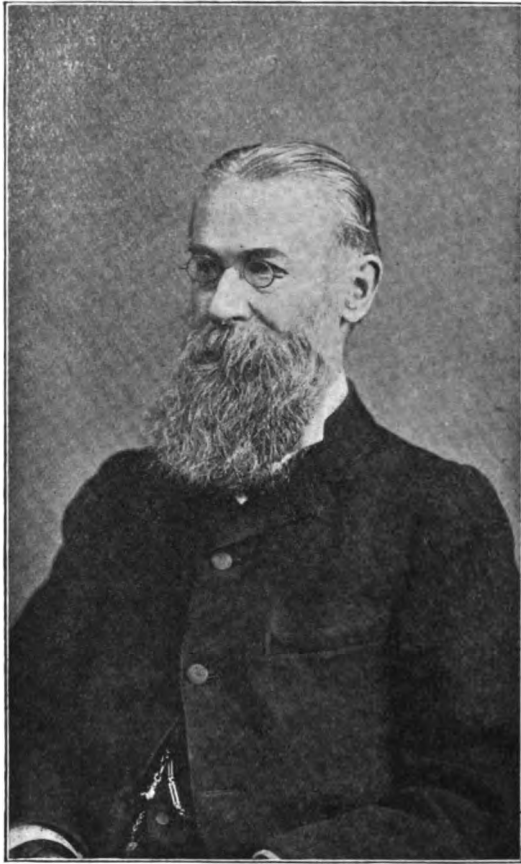
FREDERIC WILLIAM MADDEN, *of Brighton.*

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MR. F. W. MADDEN was born in the old buildings of the British Museum, on the 9th April, 1839. He was educated at Merchant Taylors' (1846), was scholar of St. Paul's (1848-1851), and Foundation Scholar (Gownboy) of Charterhouse, on the nomination of H.R.H. the late Prince Consort (1851-1856). He was Assistant and Senior Assistant, Department of Antiquities, British Museum, 1859-1868; Assistant-Secretary to the Executive under the direction of H.M. Commissioners for the Annual International Exhibitions, South Kensington, 1871-1874; Secretary to the Brighton College 1874-1888; and Chief Librarian of the Brighton Public Library since 1888. He is the eldest son of Sir Frederic Madden, K.H., F.R.S., for nearly forty years Assistant-Keeper and Keeper of the Department of MSS., British Museum. He is a member of the Royal Asiatic Society, since 1877, and was Secretary of the Numismatic Society of London, 1860-1868; Silver Medallist of the Society, 1896; Hon. Member, 1898; Associé étranger de la Société Royale de la Numismatique Belge, 1865; Fellow of the Numismatic Society of Montreal, 1865; Foreign Corresponding Member of the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Philadelphia, 1869; Hon. Member, 1880.

His chief works are "The Handbook of Roman Numismatics," 1861; "The History of Jewish Coinage and Money in the Old and New Testaments," 1864; "The Coins of the Jews," being Vol. II. of the "International Numismata Orientalia," 1881.

He was joint editor of the *Numismatic Chronicle*, 1860-68, and also edited the special catalogues of the "Phillip and Creswick Collection of Pictures," compiled by T. O. Barlow, A.R.A., for H.M. Commissioners of the Exhibition, 1873, and the *Key Newspaper*, a daily publication forming the authorised Guide to the Exhibitions, 1872-73. He compiled the *Brighton College Library Catalogue*, 1882-83, 1885 and 1888. The *Catalogue of the Victoria Lending Library*, with Appendix of Books of Reference [B.P.L.], was published in 1890, followed by *Supplements* in 1892, 1895, and 1895-98.



F. W. MADDEN, LIBRARIAN OF BRIGHTON.

His principal publications are:—In the *Numismatic Chronicle (inter alia)*, “The Wigan Collection of Gold Coins presented to the British Museum,” 1865; “Coins of Septimius Severus, Macrinus, and Philip I. struck at Apameia, in Phrygia, with the legend *Nōe*, with remarks on the presumed Christian tendencies of these Emperors, etc.,” 1866; “The Collection of Roman Gold Coins of the Duke de Blacas, purchased for the British Museum,” 1867-68; “Supplement to the History of Jewish Coinage,” 1874-1876; “Christian Emblems on the coins of Constantine I. and his successors,” 1877-78; “A Guide to the select Greek, Roman, and other coins exhibited in electrotype at Brighton College,” 1878.

Mr. Madden is a contributor to Kitto’s “Cyclopædia of Biblical Literature,” (Art. Lucius, Herodian family, Money, etc.) 1870; Smith

and Cheetham's "Dictionary of Christian Antiquities," (Art. Money), 1880; "Appendix to the Queen's Printers' Aids to the students of the Bible and Variorum Teacher's Bible," (Art. Money and Weights), 1877, 1887; Nelson's "Illustrated Bible Treasury," (Art. Money and Weights), 1896-97; and "Remarks on a Fragment of a MS. of Valerius Maximus, in the Public Library at Berne, containing a portion of the text supplied from the Epitome of Julius Paris" in the *Transactions of the Royal Society of Literature*. Vol. 8. N.S.

Mr. Madden has not taken a very active part in the ordinary and more practical side of library work, but has devoted himself with success to the more enduring paths of learning and research. He is a recognised authority on numismatics and kindred subjects, and his writings entitle him to the respect of his brother librarians and archæologists. It is so rarely that librarians of Municipal Public Libraries accomplish much outside their professional work, that it gives us pleasure to introduce Mr. Madden, more effectually than it has ever been done before, to his fellow librarians throughout the country. Mr. Madden's career and accomplishments afford an object-lesson and stimulus to the younger school of librarians, who are only too prone to give little thought to learning for its own sake, and we trust this brief notice of a notable librarian will do something to prove that public librarianship is not necessarily incompatible with scholarship.



THE LIBRARY STAFF.



THIS DEPARTMENT is conducted for the special, but not exclusive, benefit of the earnest and studious Library Assistant, who is determined to make his or her way in the profession of Librarianship. An effort will be made to cover in a gradual and complete manner, the whole of the ground occupied by the technical side of the craft, and to enable this to be thoroughly done, brief practical notes of any kind are solicited from assistants or librarians in any sort of library. Ethical disquisitions on deportment and disagreeable controversial notes are not wanted. Every assistant should make a point of sending at least one note annually bearing on the daily routine work of a library. Nothing is too trivial or trite to be thoroughly discussed.

EDITED BY A LANCASHIRE LIBRARIAN.

Checks on Assistants. I AM sure library assistants of every grade must feel deeply indebted to Mr. Jast for his proposal to keep them up to a high pitch of duty by means of a rubber stamp. His motherly care that their backslidings should take a self-registering form is only equalled in a certain West London library, where similar checks are used for the purpose of making assistants incriminate themselves. Now, I do not pretend to be a lawyer, but

I understand it is a privilege conferred upon every freeborn Englishman that he need not give evidence against himself unless he likes. Mr. Jast's tell-tale rubber stamp is therefore an illegal implement, and should be stoutly resisted. Among all this talk about raising the standard of library assistants, I can detect very little which shows that their patrons, the librarians, are animated by any intense wish to treat assistants as human beings. There is a great deal of desire, however, on the part of these librarians to display their own infallibility and knowledge, and a somewhat indecent craving to stalk about with moral oil-can in hand, keeping the miserable machine-assistant well greased for his work. At one time I thought all this interest in improving the intellectual and material well-being of assistants was the result of a genuine desire to enhance their standing, but I am more disposed now to believe that most librarians are anxious to improve their assistants for purely selfish reasons. When a librarian is able to depend upon a well-drilled staff, he can, with perfect safety to his reputation, give most of his time to the cultivation of his own private fads, such as platform spouting, amateur photography, cycling, &c. Any thoughtful assistant, moreover, can see that an educated staff would prove a source of danger to the position of librarians themselves, as, with the march of time, the public and committees will come to demand thoroughly competent and accomplished men. It, therefore, behoves librarians to keep assistants as subordinate as possible, without impairing their mediocre efficiency, by means of rubber stamps and mechanical dodges of a like nature, which will convey to the general public the idea that here are a lot of clock-work automata *dominated* by a wonderful organizing *head*. For all practical purposes I should imagine that a little friendly advice and expostulation, combined with *personal supervision*, would do more to check the human tendency to blunder, than all the rubber stamps or mechanical tell-tale contrivances in the world. I am curious, moreover, to learn what sort of check the librarian proposes should be put upon his own blunders.

Library	BUILDINGS AND FITTINGS.	
Methodology.	C	
2 Leases	14	Ventilation
1 Agreements	1	1 General
3 Forms	3	3 Special
4 Sites	16	Heating
1 Surroundings	1	1 General
3 Freehold	3	3 Special
5 Leasehold	18	Lighting
7 Donations	1	1 General
9 Plans	3	3 Special
6 Competitions	5	5 Gas
1 Terms and Rules	7	7 Incandescent Gas
3 Advertisements in Open	9	9 Electric
5 Conditions	20	Decoration
7 Assessor	1	1 General
9 Exhibitions of Plans	3	3 Special
11 Premiums	22	Cleaning

13	Selection of Plans.	1	General
8	Plans	3	Special
1	Ground Plans	24	Reference Library
3	Elevations	1	Book Store
5	Views	3	Reading Room
7	Special	5	Open Access
10	Specifications	7	Special Libraries
12	Contracts	26	Newsrooms
1	Quantities	1	General
3	Separate or Sub Contracts	3	Special
5	Advertisement	28	Lending Library
7	Close or Select Competitions	1	Ordinary
9	Extras	3	Indicators
11	Architects' Fees	5	Open Access
13	Clerk of Works		

Assistants' Studies. A WANT which has been felt by every assistant who is trying to learn as much as possible about the library profession is the need for a Manual which will aid them over the "stiles." From the activity which has been apparent among librarians recently, it would appear that those with assistants under them are beginning to recognise their responsibility to their staffs. We have "The Library Year Book," "Library Association Series," and the two Manuals just published on Classification and Cataloguing, with the promise of more to follow, but still, with all these books, assistants feel lost when they have to do a piece of work out of the ordinary run of their daily duty. This is explained by the loose manner in which assistants do their reading. How many assistants keep a note book beside them for the purpose of noting down any point which strikes them as being good or which they are likely to forget? A good plan, which was recommended to the writer by one of our foremost librarians, is to procure a drawer or cabinet and note down on slips, leading off with the subject of the entry, anything which you think is a useful piece of information. By this means a collection is steadily formed of points which would have given you trouble if it were not for the care you had taken in bringing together what could be published in a few years as "The Librarians' Vade Mecum."

Filing Periodicals. OUR note on the filing of periodicals has prompted an assistant to write and let us know of a system which has been partially tried in a large library in Scotland, where over 400 magazines are filed, and with such success that it has been decided to make it general. The system is this:—Each magazine and periodical is provided with a half-inch board a little larger than its own size. The boards, after they have been titled on the edge, which is done with a Library Sign Writer, are placed on shelves in alphabetical order. As each number is taken from the table in the news room they are placed on the top of their respective boards. "This system," our correspondent adds, "has many advantages over the box system." When the filing is being done little or no handling of the file is necessary. Less expensive, as the boards never require to be renewed, whereas, with boxes it was found that they soon got broken, especially

those which held the larger magazines, such as *Graphic*, *Illustrated London News*, &c. Another reason why this system is better than the box system is, that when a magazine is ready for binding the file shows it at once, whereas, with the other, magazines were invariably left until the box would not close, with the result that it was impossible to keep the shelves tidy. We will not comment on this system. Boxes have been used so long in the filing of periodicals that librarians may be loath to make a change, still, if boards do all that are claimed for them, we think it but right that a fair trial should be given to them, or anything else introduced to help us in our daily work.



LIBRARY EXTENSION WORK.

THE PROVISION OF BALLAD MUSIC, ANCIENT AND MODERN. *By* THOMAS ALDRED, *Librarian*, St. George the Martyr Public Library, London.

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ALTHOUGH free libraries may be regarded as quite modern institutions, it is now some years since the question of the addition of works of music took definite shape after discussion and practical tests. It was then established that the growth of musical culture could not only be sustained, but also stimulated by this innovation. Admitted the provision of musical works has not yet become general, it is believed now by many that this is a matter which has hardly attained the acme of usefulness, since so many libraries which do contain musical works, have not yet included ballad music in any form whatever. The rule appears to be to confine the selection to operatic works, works on theory, and in some cases—not all—collections of classical instrumental compositions, *i.e.*, the works, generally speaking, of masters of undoubtedly high repute. That this provision lacks comprehensiveness it is the aim of the present paper to demonstrate.

The direction in which our efforts should be made to supplement our musical collections, and the usefulness of free libraries at the same time, is that of providing for borrowers the means of becoming better acquainted with what has always been regarded as the distinctly national feature of English music, *viz.*, the ballad.

Our nation of old loved the ballad, and always welcomed the bard, gleeman or minstrel in his capacity either as historian, news-bearer, or musician. Later, nearly all the people sang, and in the rugged simplicity of old English melody lies its everlasting charm. Chappell's monumental work best illustrates the evolution of English ballad melody, and a perusal of this work will show how much of the old music still lives in the heart of the English people. The manner in which this evolution still continues is shown by the fact that greater attention is now being paid by our English masters to the production

of songs worthy to rank with those of the best song writers, such as Loewe, Schumann, and Schubert, so that our national songs are now being raised to that standard of musical excellence which their literature has already attained.

The ballad has much to interest us, not only in its origin, but in its history and uses. Orally transmitted in former times, it exerted a powerful influence upon the life and thought of the English. It has preserved numerous old words and phrases. It illustrates many old customs and conveys to us much in the way of historical incident and heroic adventure which might have disappeared with our advancing civilisation, but for its agency. The ballad has been spoken of as "of the people and for the people," and it is certain that many of the old ballads will be sung as long as the English language is spoken. It is an institution deeply grafted in our national life, and its literature is amongst those things we most cherish. Its study both from a literary and musical standpoint we should do well to encourage.

In principle it must be admitted that it is not straining the interpretation of the Library Acts to say that the best works in literature ought to be provided for the benefit of those who are not in a position to provide themselves with such works. That literature embraces both the useful and ornamental arts and sciences is a truism. It cannot be gainsaid that music may at one and the same time be both a useful and fine art. It is equally not within the power of the average borrower to possess a wide collection of good music, and if means of borrowing such works could be provided much good might result, as it will be endeavoured to show.

That those pioneers who obtained the inclusion of musical works and compositions in their catalogues, took an appreciated step in a useful and pleasant direction, is now admitted by those who are in a position to judge of the success of the experiment. It would be out of place here to attempt to argue the immense benefit which the appreciation of melody and harmony has had on the minds of students and accomplished scholars. Judging by the attention now paid to musical culture, it should be worth our while to avail ourselves as a community of the advantages we possess for the purpose of continuing to foster and extend the love of the ballad, and of spreading the knowledge of the history of many famous songs which have contributed so materially to our national spirit.

This may be considered but an argument for the provision of a good collection of recognised folk song. It, however, may reasonably be extended to the supply of the ballads of our own time. "New times demand new measures," and since our conservatism in government has so far relaxed as to insist on some degree of compulsory musical teaching in elementary schools, libraries could be assisting the cause of secondary education by providing the means for some measure of that continuity of learning which is now so freely advocated and generally agreed upon.

Apart from favourable historical and educational reasons, there is a powerful plea for the authorities to consider in the often expressed,

and still more often unexpressed, desire of borrowers for the supply of vocal music. The unvoiced want is a strong one in this case, as will be acknowledged by people of musical acquaintance, for it is well-known that many borrowers are diffident about communicating many of their wants to the library authority. This is one of the disadvantages of the indicator system. Borrowers become less disposed to consult the librarian. It, however, may be hoped that by widening the library's sphere of usefulness and making transactions less machine-like and unsympathetic, this diffidence could to some extent be overcome.

It need hardly be said that it is not intended to advocate the purchase of all classes of ballad or kindred compositions of the present day for library use. Much that is now published would not find a place in any well-selected assortment of song-music. Still of good music there is no lack, and considering the prices at which modern works are issued, it must be admitted that few of our borrowers could keep pace with even good music if compelled to resort to purchasing it to gratify their advancing capabilities, tastes, or desires, whereas the ability to obtain it on loan might help to a better knowledge of what is good and edifying in this realm of art.

Objection may be taken to this proposal on several grounds. These may be stated and met in various ways. The task of selection, would for instance, be onerous although surely not more so than is the case with much fiction of the present day. In addition to the assistance derivable from numerous well-assorted catalogues there are, no doubt, many well qualified friends who would, if asked, be quite willing to advise in this matter. Mr. J. D. Brown, who has only recently issued a supplementary list to his former "Guide to the formation of a music library," would possibly extend his excellent work still further, so as to include the class of music now advocated.

Another objection may be the difficulty of storing and lending such portions of the collection as are issued in sheet form. This, however, presents little difficulty to the select circulating library, and would simply require close attention, and a little extra care on the part of both librarian and borrower. Apart from this it might be thought desirable to group and bind songs in sheet form so that they may be dealt with in the same manner as other books.

It may be urged that constant usage would necessitate frequent replacements. This would only further prove the existence of a demand which ought to be supplied. The protest that the funds of a corporate body would feel the cost of the provision of music only shows how heavy the cost must be, especially to music-lovers of slender resources.

A stock could be provided by the library authority of a quality and quantity which the average borrower could not otherwise hope to possess, and by reason of one comprehensive stock being available and common to all, the cost of each loan or usage is infinitesimal in a library as compared with that of a collection belonging to an individual.

In conclusion, it is urged that the provision of ballad and song music has at least as much claim to favourable consideration as the ordinary modern novel, and if some energies now devoted to less

desirable pursuits could be diverted by its means, the benefit would be incalculable. "Appetite comes with eating," the French say. Then let us endeavour to create an appetite by providing such healthful food as may be most reasonably expected to benefit our race, and provide facilities for the pursuit of the art of music.



LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS.



THE **London Government Act** has now been finally passed, and will become law as from November 1st, 1900. Considerable changes have been introduced, and the whole of the new Borough areas—twenty-eight in all—have been fixed. The Commissioners appointed by the Privy Council will set to work forthwith, and already the necessary officials have been named. This Commission, acting on behalf of a special Committee of the Privy Council, will hold local enquiries and adjust any boundaries yet to be finally settled, and will prepare orders and schemes for the management of the Boroughs. It appears by clause 16 that the Commissioners have to make various adjustments as to rates, &c., and "in particular for such adjustments as may be required for the efficient maintenance of any libraries, baths, or wash-houses which have been maintained under the provisions of any of the adoptive Acts." It is possible, therefore, that this Commission, and not the new Borough Councils will settle all matters as to levying the Library Rate equally over a whole area, or otherwise, and adjusting the transference of officers. The proceedings of this Commission will be watched with much interest by London Librarians. In an early number we hope to be able to print a map of London, showing the new Boroughs, and the library provision of each.

MR. Herbert A. Shuttleworth, Librarian of Rotherhithe Public Library, has been appointed first librarian of the Acton Public Library. Mr. Shuttleworth was trained in the Birmingham Public Libraries, and was branch librarian at Deritend when he received the Rotherhithe appointment in 1895. Mr. Shuttleworth invented an adjustable hanging reading-stand for newspapers, and has compiled several catalogues, &c.

THE Report of the **West Ham** Public Libraries for the year ending March 25th, 1899, is a record of progress and successful working. The stock numbers 49,880 volumes, of which 27,682 are at Stratford, 17,360 at Canning Town, and the balance in store and at the Hospital Branch. 252,352 volumes were issued for home reading, and 39,978 for reference. The attendances in newsrooms, &c., were very large, showing an increase on previous years. "Arrangements are made by which each borrower can have four tickets—(1) Ordinary. (2) Non-fictional books only. (3) Music. (4) Quarterly, monthly, or weekly periodicals and

reviews." We congratulate Mr. Cotgreave upon his liberality in the granting of tickets, which is rather a change from his attitude at Cardiff when he read a paper on the "Disadvantages of the Two-Ticket System." The losses have been trifling, and on page 15 of the Report there is a paragraph about open access. The Report includes an account of the opening of the new Central Library.

THE Delegates of the **Clarendon Press** have presented books to the value of £25 each to the Worcester and Kettering Public Libraries

MR. **Arthur Tait**, the Secretary of the Leeds Institute of Science, Art, and Literature, has been elected President of the West Riding Association of Organising Masters and Secretaries for Technical Education.

MR. DYER, Editor of the *Library Assistant*, writes to the *Municipal Journal* *apropos* of the **International Congress of Women**, when the subject of women as librarians was discussed, and urges that the gathering was not a representative one. "I have yet to learn that Mr. Sutton, of Manchester, who has eighty-seven women under him in the libraries he controls; or Mr. Matthews, of Bristol, who has thirty-three; or Mr. Brown, of Clerkenwell, who has four; or Mr. Inkster, of Battersea, who also has four; and who are each and all advocates of the employment of women as librarians, and can speak with a practical knowledge of the conditions, were invited to speak! Further, I have yet to learn that Miss Lewtas, of Blackpool; Miss Greenhalgh of Bury; Miss Proctor, of Widnes; or any other woman practically acquainted with the actual conditions of Public Library work was invited to speak, though two ladies at present interested in commercial pursuits addressed the meeting at length on experiences gained under specialised conditions in a library now closed, and such as are not likely ever to be repeated, or likely ever to be of use to intending librarians.

THE late Mrs. Marjory Skea, of Corrigall, **Stromness**, having left the residue of her estate estimated at about £1,000 to found a Free Library for her native town, steps will be taken to give effect to the terms of her will. Mr. Andrew Carnegie, of Skibo, has offered to contribute a sum of £250 towards stocking the library with books.

THE Public Library (Scotland) Act has been adopted by the Burgh of **Ellon**, Aberdeenshire. Ellon is a small town with about 1,300 inhabitants, situated in a parish with a population approaching 4,000.

THE Public Library and Reading Room for **Mexborough**, which adopted the Acts some time ago, was opened on June 22nd, by Mr. J. H. Watson, J.P., C.C.

The Thirteenth Annual Report of the **Loughborough** Public Free Library records a stock of 7,865 volumes, and a total annual issue of 41,661 volumes. Additional shelves and indicators are required. A Library Guide is published quarterly and is given away to readers.

MR. JOHN **Maclauchlan**, Librarian of Dundee Free Library, recently completed 25 years' service in that capacity, and members of the Free Library Committee expressed the desire that some public notice should be taken of the event in view of the services rendered by Mr. Maclauchlan, both as Librarian and as Curator of the Museum and Art Galleries. A committee has been formed to consider what steps should be taken to bring the matter to a successful issue.

West Hartlepool Public Library now contains 11,585 volumes, and during the year 1898-99 issued 75,767 volumes for home reading, and 6,146 for reference. Donations to the extent of £170 were received during the year for the purchase of books.

THE Diamond Jubilee Memorial for **Maidstone**, which takes the form of an addition to the Museum and Library, was opened on July 7th, by the Lord Mayor of London. The Free Library is a lofty apartment 54 feet in length and 21 feet wide, with a moulded and panelled plaster ceiling. It is proposed to divide the room by screens and fittings for the purpose of the lending library and reading room. An upper and similar apartment, styled the County Room, is intended for the exhibition of special collections particularly interesting to the people of Kent. The floor space of this room will be entirely unobstructed, and a narrow and light iron gallery, suspended from the open pitch-pine roof, renders the whole of the ample wall space available for the fixing of cases containing exhibits. The new rooms communicate by folding doors with the lower and upper halls of the School of Science and Art on the one hand, and with the Ethnographical and Fine Art Rooms of the Museum on the other. A small work-room has been provided on the upper floor, with communications between the Kent Archæological Society and County Rooms. There is also a basement for the storage of newspapers, &c. The curator's residence occupies the site opposite the Free Library, and between this and the Technical School is formed a new forecourt, 30 feet wide and receding 38 feet from Faith Street. The total cost of the library and the curator's house amounts to £3,600.

THE Annual Report of the **Norwich** Public Library returns the stock at 39,067 volumes, excluding the Juvenile Library, and the annual issues at 113,145. In every department the work is being successfully accomplished.

MR. **Norris Mathews**, Chief Librarian of the Bristol Public Libraries, has issued an "Illustrated Catalogue of the Early Printed Books in the City Reference Library, Bristol." Price 5s. net.

THE "**Scientific Roll**" continues its work of indexing and annotating the contents of the chief scientific magazines, and is now issuing indexes to separate subjects like "Climate," &c. It is published by Messrs. O'Driscoll, Lennox & Co., 10-12, Elephant Road, London, S.E.

MISS HETHERINGTON has just issued the ninth volume of her "**Annual Index to Periodicals**," covering the year 1898. Apart from its general excellence, this Index records the chief contents of the *Library World*, and, on that account alone, is well worth the subscription.

A CONCERT in aid of the **Bethnal Green** Free Library was given at the Peoples' Palace by Lady William Lennox's Ladies' Orchestra. The Sheriffs of the City of London were present, and a large audience assembled to hear the very attractive concert.

THE **Kettering** Public Library now contains 3,103 volumes, and during the year 1898-99 issued 38,891 volumes. The need for increased accommodation for both readers and books is becoming very urgent.

ON Saturday, July 1st, Sir J. Blundell Maple, M.P., opened the new Public Library at **Penge**, which is a converted building formed by the adaptation of two houses in Oakfield Road. Towards the furnishing of this Sir J. B. Maple contributed £100, and also presented £50 for the purchase of books.

THE Report of the Public Libraries Committee of the City of **Kingston-upon-Hull**, for the year ending March 31st, 1899, is a satisfactory document. The stock numbers 58,962 volumes, of which 14,695 were for reference, and 44,267 for lending. The total number of volumes issued was 458,506, and the visitors to the newsrooms numbered 682,260. In both cases this is a considerable decrease as compared with former years. On page 29 is given a comparative Table of Libraries, showing population, rate, and work as compared with Hull.

Mr. **W. T. Harris**, Assistant in the Cripplegate Institute, has been appointed Sub-Librarian of the Hornsey Public Libraries. He received his training chiefly at Lambeth and Bournemouth.

THE **Leicester** Public Libraries now contain 59,444 volumes, of which 15,196 are in the Central Reference Department, 20,642 in the Central Lending Department, and the balance in the six branches. The total issues during the year amounted to 472,728 volumes. In every department the work shows a high degree of usefulness. Music and books for the blind are supplied, and Students' Tickets are issued.

THE chief feature of the **Aston Manor** Public Library Report is an account of the "Rise and Growth of the Aston Manor Public Library, 1878-99," by Mr. R. K. Dent. The library now contains 17,466 volumes, of which 7,650 are for reference. The annual issues were 74,641 volumes, of which 10,959 were consulted in the Reference Department.

THE Library Committee of **Tunstall** have appointed Miss A. Poole Librarian, in place of Mr. Flint, at a salary of £40.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS.

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THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

THE Annual Meeting of this Association to be held at Manchester, from Monday, September 4th, to Friday, September 8th, promises to be interesting. A large number of papers, chiefly bibliographical or local in character, have been secured, and various arrangements have been made for the entertainment of visitors and delegates. Visits will be made to the colleges and libraries of Manchester, and members will be treated to a voyage on the Ship Canal. So far as we can gather there will be no burning questions to discuss, such as ruffled the proceedings at Southport, but there will be a good deal to see and a lot to learn.

The voting papers have been issued for the election of members of council, but this year there seems very little competition for office. Four new nominations for London members of council and six new nominations for the country seats do not strike us as indicative of any keen desire for the honour. There will be an election of Vice-Presidents this time, and the officers remain unchanged.

LIBRARY ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION.

ON Wednesday afternoon, June 28th, by the kind invitation of Mr. C. T. Davis, a meeting was held at Wandsworth. An instructive visit was paid to Messrs. McMurray's Paper Mills, where the various stages of manufacture were viewed with interest. Returning to the library Mr. and Mrs. Davis entertained a party of some eighty members and friends to tea on the lawn, and a most successful photographic group was arranged. In the office were exhibited a splendid collection of early editions of Shakspeare, including specimens of all the folios and quartos, together with many of the separate plays, and also copies of books in form, such as Shakspeare may have used and handled, including the Bibles of 1535, 1537 and 1539. Mr. Sidney Lee was prevented by illness from being present to describe the volumes, but wrote expressing a wish that on another occasion opportunity might arise for him to address the L.A.A. Mr. Davis, in his absence, described the collection in an admirable address, and a few words were added by Mr. F. Rogers, of the Elizabethan Literary Society, Toynbee Hall. With a unanimous and cordial vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Davis for their hospitality, and to their kind friend who lent the books for exhibition, concluded a meeting which will be memorably pleasant to all who were present.

The Annual Meeting took place on July 19th, by kind permission, at 20, Hanover Square. There was a fair attendance, and after a lengthy debate a resolution, moved by Mr. Soper, and seconded by

Mr. Dyer, on behalf of a country member, was adopted, with one dissentient, thanking the Library Association for its continuous provision of educational facilities for Library Assistants in and near the county of London.

The ballot for the election of the Committee resulted in the re-election of all the old members, with the addition of ten representative country assistants.

After the usual complimentary votes of thanks it was announced that the opening meeting of next session would be held, by kind invitation of Wynne E. Baxter, Esq., J.P., at Stoke Newington, when there would be on view a unique collection of early editions of the works of John Milton.

B. DYER, *Hon. Sec.*,
Old Brompton Road, S.W.

THE N. W. Branch held a meeting at Bootle, on Saturday, July 8th, which was addressed by Mr. Ogle, and by Mr. Madeley, and have arranged at future meetings to read and discuss Mr. Quinn's "Manual of Cataloguing." Visits to Chester, Hawarden, and Eaton Hall, are under consideration.

P. D. GORDON, *Hon. Sec.*,
Mudies, Manchester.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALASIA.

THE "Proceedings of the Sydney Meeting," which took place in October, 1898, have now been issued as a demy 8vo. volume of 135pp. and appendices, published at Sydney by Messrs. Hennessey, Harper & Co. The papers are generally much more advanced in every respect than one would expect from a conference of colonial librarians, while the literary merit is high. Confining ourselves to papers of practical and general interest, the first we reach is a lucid and thoroughly good paper on "The Public Library and the Public," by Mr. E. L. Anderson, LL.B., Librarian of the Public Library of Victoria, in which he contends for liberal administration on broad lines. His views on open access coincide with those generally held all over the United States, and are a lesson to English librarians in moderation and the proper spirit in which this important question should be approached—"I am confident that access to the shelves in the Lending Department will tend to bring the Public Library and the public into more cordial relations, and I think, therefore, that we are justified in taking certain minor risks in order to confer a very great benefit on those who use our libraries." There are three papers on Library Classification contributed by Mr. W. H. Ifould, Mr. C. Hardy, B.A., and Miss Margaret Windeyer, which deal chiefly with Dewey's Decimal Method, as applied both to the shelving and cataloguing of books. "Travelling Libraries" are fully considered by Mr. R. D. Boys, B.A., and Mr. J. R. G. Adams, and the relations of the School and the

Public Library are expounded Mr. H. C. L. Anderson, M.A., Mr. John W. Kevin and Miss Windeyer. The fiction question is considered by Professor M. W. MacCullum, M.A., and Mr. Wm. M. Fairland; Poetry in Libraries, by Mr. W. H. C. Darwall, and Bookbinding, by Mr. F. S. Bryant. Bookselling, Copyright, and other matters are also considered, in addition to more local questions, and altogether the Australasians are to be congratulated upon the ability displayed in this general survey of librarianship, and the value of the opinions expressed on so many important questions. The list of Members and Associates for 1898 records the names of nearly 300 individuals and institutions, and it is very probable that when the next meeting is held at Adelaide, in 1900, this number will be largely augmented. The Association is much indebted to the enthusiasm of Mr. H. C. L. Anderson, Librarian of the Sydney Public Library, who attended the Second International Conference at London in 1897, and not only organized the Sydney Conference, but indited the proceedings of the meeting.

THE PSEUDONYMS.

A DEFUNCT philosopher has described an American as "An animal with straight hair, short teeth, long back, and no calves to his legs," from which we may infer, by a process of reasoning well known to constructive anatomists that the American is a pedestrian. It is a little unfortunate that this theory does not quite square with ascertained facts, because we know that while the average American is a travelling animal, he is rather averse to using his legs for the purpose, when he can hire a railroad or a steamboat. Nevertheless, a man minus calves to his legs must be a walker, consequently, Americans are pedestrians. Did not Elihu Burritt walk from Land's End to John O'Groats, and are we not familiar with that other enterprising American who went round the world on foot clad in a paper suit; or that bolder one who accomplished the same tour equipped with but one shirt? Further, if we are to credit the published accounts of the proceedings of the numerous American Library Clubs, the members are never off their legs, being great walkers and talkers. Their chief summer amusement seems to be a pilgrimage to some literary shrine—generally a book-store round the corner where light refreshments are served gratis—and there the pilgrims discuss the ethics of librarianship, or wax patriotic over the might of the star-spangled banner. The Pseudonyms, unlike their American cousins, scorn the Walk with a Purpose, such as blasted the early youth of Messrs. Sandford and Merton, and prefer, instead, a desultory ramble, whose chief charm is a kind of studied aimlessness. The serious character of the American people manifests itself differently. Should they so far condescend as to attend a barbecue, cake-walk, or pop-corn function, they consider, while gravely unbending to the fun of the occasion, how the leading features of the entertainment can be classified or incorporated in their systems of library management. When they go to a Civil War battlefield, or some spot where the Britisher got licked in bygone times, the

problem uppermost in most minds is how to transport an adequate "chunk" to the reference library as an object-lesson for the rising generation. With English librarians, and especially the Pseudonyms, no such awful devotion to duty exists. When it is a "day off" the problems of advanced civilization or degeneration, as the case may be, are allowed to solve themselves, while a brief return is made to the manners and customs of primitive man. So it was with the Pseudonyms when they left London recently to commune with Nature on the spot. Any librarian of a scientific turn may locate the precise scene of operations by purchasing a fifty-shilling geographical globe and a seven-and-sixpenny eighteen inch augur. Turn the globe till the western hemisphere is on top; next, carefully insert the point of the augur at a spot exactly three furlongs from the north-east corner of the police station, of the township of Ahtyagau, in New Zealand; bore carefully and slowly in the desired direction and it is probable the point of the augur will appear a few yards west of the windmill around which the Pseudonyms revolved. This result will depend largely upon the care taken and the correctness of the direction pursued. Around the point thus clearly indicated, the Pseudonyms spent a happy time discussing salads, tea, cakes, strawberries, and other matters of vast professional import. Some of the members, thereafter, displayed a strong sporting inclination, by laying money on the performances of certain racing horses; and various games of chance were indulged in, including snap-shot photography, the results of which are not figured in these Minutes.

SOME NICKEL-PLATED APHORISMS OF THE PSEUDONYMS.

o o o

- 1.—If you cannot classify a book—don't buy it.
- 2.—It is better to criticise a catalogue than to compile one.
- 3.—Mistakes are generally made by absent assistants.
- 4.—Library statistics never lie—it would be an impolite invasion of the librarian's province.
- 5.—If you want your own way—square the chairman.
- 6.—A book in the hand is worth two at the binder's.
- 7.—The librarian who doesn't advertise himself is lost.
- 8.—A stingy librarian makes a stingy committee.
- 9.—A misguided ambition to get married is the main cause of the zeal of library assistants for advancement.
- 10.—The librarian who invented everything before anybody else was born, is generally a man with a strongly developed inventive faculty.
- 11.—When a committeeman gets nasty, give him an order.
- 12.—When a book cannot be found, blame the Indicator—it doesn't speak back.
- 13.—When you have exhausted every ordinary means of achieving notoriety—join the Library Association.

SELECT LIST OF BOOKS ON SPECIAL SUBJECTS.

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ELECTRICITY.

*By F. J. BURGOWNE, Librarian, Lambeth Public Libraries,
London.*

(Continued from page 28, Vol. 2.)

TABLES, PROBLEMS, QUESTIONS, SPECIFICATION, TERMS.

- Badt (F. B.) Incandescent Wiring Handbook. 5th ed. Spon. 4s. 6d.
 ——— New Dynamo Tender's Handbook. Spon. 4s. 6d.
 Boulton (W. S.) The International Comprehensive Wire Table. Whittaker. 5s.
 Fleming (A.) Electrical Laboratory Notes and Forms. Whittaker. 12s. 6d. *net.*
 Geipel (W.) and Kilgour (M. H.) Electrical Engineering Formulæ. Whittaker.
 General Rules recommended for Wiring for the Supply of Electrical Energy.
 Issued by the Institution of Electrical Engineers. Spon. 4s.
 Griffin's Electrical Engineer's Price Book, edited by Dowsing. Griffin. 8s. 6d.
 Heaphy (M.) The Phoenix Fire Office Rules for Electric Light Installations
 and Electric Power Installations. 26th ed. Spon. 6d.
 Hering (C.) Universal Wiring Computer. Spon. 5s.
 Houston (E. J.) Dictionary of Electrical Words, Terms, and Phrases. 4th ed.
 Whittaker. 3rs. 6d.
 Kempe (H. R.) Electrical Engineer's Pocket Book. 2nd ed. Lockwood. 5s.
 Kennelly (A. E.) and Wilkinson (H. D.) Practical Notes for Electrical
 Students. Whittaker. 6s. 6d.
 Maycock (W. P.) Electrical Notes and Definitions for Students. New ed.
 Spon. 2s.
 Merrill (E. A.) Electric Lighting Specifications. 2nd ed. Whittaker. 6s.
 ——— Reference Book of Tables and Formulæ for Electric Street Railway
 Engineers. Whittaker. 4s. 6d.
 Munro (J.) and Jamieson (A.) Pocket-Book of Electrical Rules and Tables.
 13th ed. Griffin. 8s. 6d.
 Slingo (W.) and Brooker (A.) Problems and Solutions in Elementary
 Electricity and Magnetism. 2s.
 Sloane (O'Connor) Standard Electrical Dictionary. New ed. Lockwood. 7s. 6d.
 Thompson (S. P.) Electrical Tables and Memoranda. Spon. 1s.
 Walker (F.) Tables and Memoranda for Electrical Engineers. Whittaker. 2s.

ELECTRICAL MEASUREMENT, METERS, GALVANOMETERS, TESTING.

- Burch (G. J.) The Capillary Electrometer in Theory and Practice. 2s. *net.*
 Carhart (H. S.) and Patterson (G. W.) Electrical Measurements. Electrician
 Office. 8s. 6d.
 Crapper (E. H.) Practical Electrical Measurements. Whittaker. 2s. 6d.
 Day (E.) Electric Light Arithmetic. Macmillan. 2s.
 Day (R. E.) Exercises in Electrical and Magnetic Measurements, with
 Answers. 3s. 6d.
 Fisher (W. C.) The Potentiometer and its Adjuncts. Whittaker. 6s.
 Flather (J. J.) Dynamometers and the Measurement of Power. Electrician
 Co. 8s. 6d.
 Gray (A.) Absolute Measurements in Electricity and Magnetism. 2nd ed.
 Macmillan. 5s. 6d.
 ——— Theory and Practice of Absolute Measurements in Electricity and
 Magnetism. 2 Vols. Vol. 1, 12s. 6d. Vol. 2, 25s.
 Halliday (G.) Notes on Design of Small Dynamos. Spon. 2s. 6d.
 Haskins (C. H.) The Galvanometer and its Uses. 4th ed. Spon. 8s. 6d.

- Hobbs (W. R. P.) The Arithmetic of Electrical Measurements.
 Hoskier (Col. V.) Testing Telegraph Cables. 3rd ed. Spon. 4s. 6d.
 Jenkin (F.) Reports of the Committee on Electrical Standards appointed by the British Association. Spon. 9s.
 Kempe (H. R.) A Handbook of Electrical Testing. 6th ed. Spon. 18s.
 Lockwood (T. D.) Electrical Measurement and the Galvanometer, its construction and uses. 2nd ed. 6s.
 Nichols (E. L.) The Galvanometer. Spon. 4s. 6d.
 Parker (H. C.) On Electrical Measurements. Spon. 4s. 6d.
 Price (W. A.) Measurement of Electrical Resistance. Clarendon Press. 14s.
 Swinburne (J.) Electrical Measurement.
 Webb (H. L.) Practical Guide to the Testing of Insulated Wires and Cables. Spon. 4s. 6d.
 Yeaman (C. H.) Electrical Measurements and Instruments. Griffin.
 Young (J. E.) Electrical Testing for Telegraph Engineers. Whittaker. 10s. 6d.

ELECTRO METALLURGY.

ELECTROLYSIS, DEPOSITION, WELDING, PLATING, CHEMISTRY.

- Bonney (G. E.) The Electro-Plater's Handbook. 3rd ed. Whittaker. 3s.
 Borchers (W.) Electric Smelting and Refining: translated by MacMillan. 2nd ed. Griffin. 21s.
 Brunor (M.) Practical Electro-Plater. 5s.
 Fontaine (H.) Electrolysis.
 Gore (G.) Art of Electro-Metallurgy, including all known processes of Electro-Deposition. Electrician Co. 6s.
 ——— Electro-Chemistry. 2nd ed. Whittaker. 2s.
 ——— The Art of Electrolytic Separation of Metals. Whittaker. 10s. 6d.
 ——— Theory and Practice of Electro-Deposition. Whittaker, 1s. 6d.
 Langbein (Dr. G.) Electro-Deposition of Metals. Electrician Co. 25s.
 Le Blanc (Max) Elements of Electro-Chemistry: trans. by Whitney. Macmillan. 6s.
 Lüpke (R.) Elements of Electro-Chemistry: trans. by Muir. Grevel. 7s. 6d.
 McMillan (W. G.) Electro-Metallurgy, Plating, Depositing, &c. 2nd ed Griffin.
 Newmann (B.) Electrolytic Methods of Analysis. Whittaker. 10s. 6d.
 Smith (E. F.) Electro-Chemical Analysis.
 Urquhart (J. W.) Electro-Plating. New ed. Lockwood. 5s.
 ——— Electro-Typing. 5s.
 Watt (A.) Electro-Deposition. 3rd ed. Electrician Co. 9s.
 ——— Electro-Metallurgy. 9th ed. Electrician Co. 4s.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.

- Bell (J.) Telegraphists' Guide to the New Examinations in Technical Telegraphy. 2nd ed. Whittaker. 1s. 6d.
 Bell (J.) and Wilson (S.) Submarine Telegraphy. Whittaker. 1s. 6d.
 Bright (C.) Submarine Telegraphs. Crosby Lockwood. 63s. *net*.
 Cooke (Sir W. F.) The Electric Telegraph. Electrician Co. 3s.
 Culley (R. S.) Handbook of Practical Telegraphy. 8th ed. Electrician Co. 16s.
 Fahie (J. J.) A History of Electric Telegraphy to the Year 1837. Spon. 9s.
 Fisher (H. K. C.) and Darby (J. C. H.) Student's Guide to Submarine Cable Testing. Whittaker. 6s. *net*.
 Herbert (T. E.) Electricity in its Application to Telegraphy. 6th ed. Whittaker.
 Houston (Prof. E. J.) and Kennelly (A. E.) Electric Telegraphy. Electrician Co. 4s. 6d.
 Kerr (R.) Wireless Telegraphy. Electrician Co. 1s.
 Lodge (O.) Work of Hertz and some of his successors: Signalling through Space without Wires. Whittaker. 2s. 6d. *net*.

- Loring (A. E.) Handbook of the Electro-Magnetic Telegraph. Spon. 2s.
 Lynd (W.) The Practical Telegraphist. 3s. 6d.
 Maver (W.) and Davis (M. M.) The Quadruplex. Whittaker. 6s. 6d.
 Munro (J.) Heroes of the Telegraph. R.T.S. 3s. 6d.
 Pope (F. L.) Modern Practice of the Electric Telegraph. 14th ed. N. York.
 12s. 6d.
 Preece (W. H.) and Sivewright (Sir J.) Telegraphy. 9th ed. Electrician Co. 6s.
 Prescott (G. B.) Electricity and the Electric Telegraph. 8th ed. 2 Vols.
 Spon. 30s.
 Sabine (R.) The Electric Telegraph: Its History and Progress. Electrician
 Co. 3s.
 Smith (W.) Rise and Extension of Submarine Telegraphy. Electrician Co. 21s.
 Thom (C.) and Jones (W. H.) Telegraphic Connections. Electrician Co. 7s. 6d.
 Thom (C.) and Jones (W. H.) Telegraphic Connections, embracing recent
 methods in Quadruplex Telegraphy. Spon. 7s. 6d.
 Wilkinson (H. D.) Submarine Cable Laying and Repairing. Whittaker. 12s. 6d

TELEPHONE, MICROPHONE, and PHONOGRAPH.

- Allsop (F. C.) Telephones: their Construction and Fitting. 5th ed. Spon.
 3s. 6d.
 Bell (J.) and Wilson (S.) Practical Telephony. Whittaker. 2s. 6d.
 Bennett (A. R.) Telephone Systems of the Continent of Europe. Electrician
 Co. 15s.
 Byng (M.) and Bell (F. G.) Popular Guide to Commercial and Domestic
 Telephony. Whittaker. 2s. 6d.
 Du Moncel (Count) The Telephone, the Microphone, and the Phonograph.
 3rd ed. Electrician Co. 5s.
 Gillett (W.) The Phonograph. Electrician Co. 5s.
 Hopkins (W. J.) Telephone Lines and their Properties. 2nd ed. Electrician
 Co. 6s. 6d.
 Houston (E. J.) and Kennelly (A. E.) Electric Telephony. Electrician Co. 4s. 6d.
 Hughes (N.) The Magneto Hand Telephone. Spon. 3s. 6d.
 Lockwood (T. D.) Practical Information for Telephonists. Electrician Co. 5s.
 Poole (J.) The Practical Telephone Handbook. 2nd ed. Whittaker. 5s.
 Preece (W. H.) and Maier (J.) The Telephone. 12s. 6d.
 Preece (W. H.) and Stubbs (A. J.) A Manual of Telephony. Whittaker. 15s.
 Prescott (G. B.) Bell's Speaking Telephone. Spon. 18s.
 Thompson (Silvanus P.) Philip Reis, Inventor of the Telephone: a Biographical
 Sketch. Spon. 7s. 6d.
 Webb (H. L.) The Telephone Handbook. Whittaker. 4s. 6d.



CORRESPONDENCE.



THE LINOTYPE IN CATALOGUE PRINTING.

To the Editor of THE LIBRARY WORLD.

I am glad that a practical printer comes forward as a critic of the alleged value of linotype in catalogue printing, and with your permission beg to say a few words in reply.

Mr. Lemmon's experience of library catalogues must be small, else he would not commit himself to the statement that he had not seen a catalogue set all in one sort of type. As a matter of fact this particular

kind of catalogue printing largely predominates. Some librarians have fancy for great display of clarendon, or other founts, in addition to the main body of type. But whether their catalogues be hand or machine composed, the cost would be considerably greater than if only one fount were used.

According to piece-work rates the cost of insertions of extra founts causes such linotyped matter to be expensive. If, however, the operators are paid by time, I am of the opinion that the cost would not be so great as Mr. Lemmon estimates. The value of linotype for catalogue work lies in having the type in solid bars and so easily manipulated. Therefore, if a display job does cost more to "comp" than if done by ordinary means, it is more than compensated by having the type so compact.

Objection is taken to the very spare description of the work of forwarding the lino. bars. Considering that the article was brief, all accounts had to be very general in character. Knowing that librarians are pretty familiar with the division of labour in a printing works, I did not think it necessary to enter into details. To do so takes up much space and only tends to confuse the general reader.

Accepting my critic's quotation of 22/- per cwt., or 2.17 pence per lb. as the present price of metal, my estimate of over £30 for the purchase of 24 cwts. is not very wide of the mark. The printer, then, now pays for the stated weight £26 8 0. At Mr. Lemmon's estimate of 3½d. per lb. as the selling price, there would be a profit of £12 16 0, or 48½ per cent. on this part of the transaction. Are we to assume that this is the average net profit on printers' contracts?

In reply to the last set of queries I may say that a printer offered to set up for me any large or small quantity of matter I liked to send. A printer who has linotype machines does not care to let them lie idle, and therefore is often glad of a stock job to work at during slack periods, and as there is no hurry for the delivery of additional matter a librarian could wait a week or two without being put to any inconvenience.

In respect to subsequent editions of the general catalogue the bars would certainly have to be re-imposed. But as the main body of type would be tied up in page form, it would not be an expensive item to insert the additional entries, seeing how easy it is to move the bars without "pieing." Quarterly or half-yearly lists are only small jobs, so the matter is not worth discussing.

Some time ago I prepared a specification for the printing of a linotyped catalogue. Any interested librarian can have a copy of it from me.

THOMAS ALDRED.

St. George the Martyr Public Library,
Borough Road, Southwark.



STUDIES IN LIBRARY PRACTICE.

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I.—THE HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION OF LIBRARY CHARGING SYSTEMS. PART II.—INDICATORS. By JAMES D. BROWN, *Librarian, Clerkenwell Public Library, London.*

(Continued from page 29, Vol. II.)

KENNEDY INDICATOR, 1875.

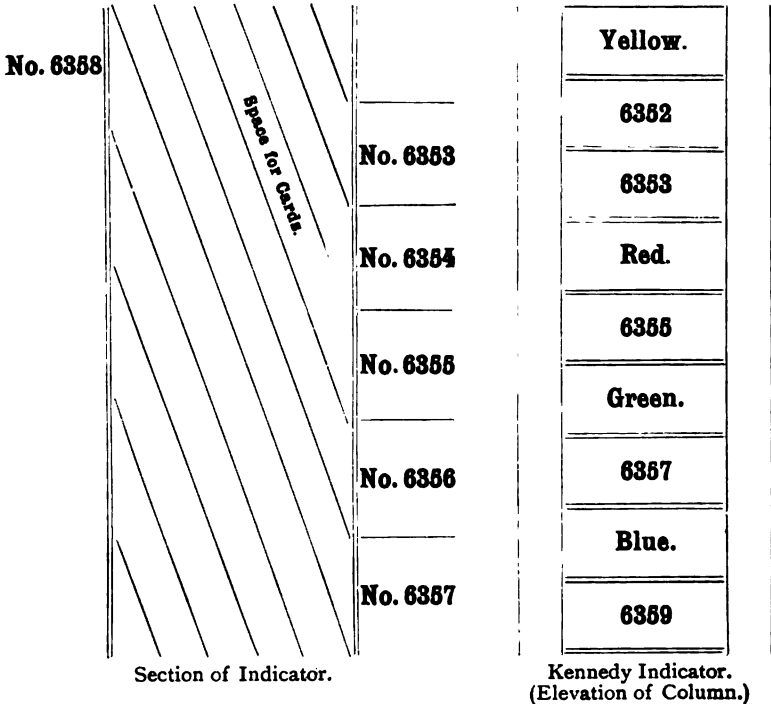
THE best description of this Indicator is published on a large folio four-page statement written by Mr. John Maclauchlan, Chief Librarian of the Dundee Free Library, and issued on September 22nd, 1879. This sheet is headed, "*Description and Method of using Kennedy's Indicator, invented for the Dundee Free Library in January, 1875, and constantly used therein since July of that year,*" and contains illustrations of the counter and details of the construction of the Indicator. The following description is abstracted from it:—"This contrivance consists of a series of upright glazed frames so placed as to be easily inspected by the public at the front, or glazed side, and by the library attendants at the back. . . . Each frame is divided into twenty vertical columns by slips of mahogany, and each of these slips is again sub-divided into 100 sloping slits by pieces of stiff millboard [now zinc], tightly held in saw cuts made in the sides of the mahogany slips. . . . As the lower edge of each piece of millboard is a little above that of the next one below it, sufficient space is visible of their lower ends in front, and of their upper ends at the back of the Indicator, to receive the catalogue number of each book in the library, printed in bold figures and pasted at the end of the millboard [zinc] strips with strong paste." Each borrower is provided with a ticket measuring 5½ inches by 1 inch, ruled as follows:—

This end coloured Yellow.	2179.	G. Kerr, 1, Earl Street.	1359	1045	6357	G	I	K
			:	y	%			
This end coloured Red.								

The reverse side is ruled the same, but the end spaces are coloured green and blue respectively. When a book is asked for, a slip, in the form figured below, is filled up by the borrower, after he has ascertained by reference to the Indicator that it is in:—

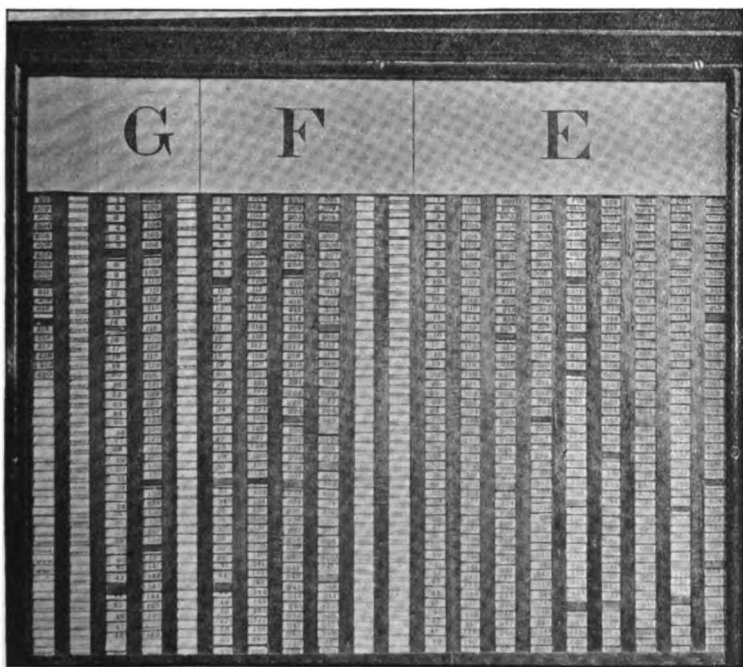
FORM OF RETURN AND ISSUE.		
	No.	Class Letter.
No. of Book returned	1045	D
No. of Book wanted	6357	K
No. of Reader's Card 2179		
20th day of June, 1879		

As mentioned above, the Indicator consists of a series of diagonal slits about 1-in. wide, arranged in columns in such a manner that when a borrower's card is inserted in a slit, its end covers up the book number at the end of the slope. A small portion of this indicator will give an idea of its working:—



Kennedy Indicator.
(Elevation of Column.)

The four different coloured ends on the cards are for the purpose of indicating overdues, a new colour being used in every period of a few days. When a book is returned, its number and class letter direct to its place in the indicator, and the assistant, with the aid of the "Form of Return," discharges the old book by simply removing the borrowers' card from the slit, and charges the new one by entering its number, date of issue and class on the borrower's card, and placing it in the slit representing the new book issued. The record of volumes issued is made up from the borrowers' application forms. The accompanying block represents a portion of the Dundee Indicator, from a photograph kindly sent by Mr. John Maclauchlan, the Librarian.



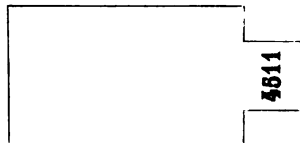
Kennedy Indicator.

The inventor of this form of Indicator was Mr. John Kennedy, a member of the Dundee Library Committee, who had his attention called to Mr. Elliot's Indicator by Mr. David Jobson, Junr., another member of the Dundee Committee. Mr. Kennedy made a careful examination of Mr. Elliot's Indicator, and as a result devised his own form, as one which was more economical in the space occupied and free from certain objections put forward by the Dundee Committee. It was introduced in 1875, on a purely non-commercial basis, and models have been freely supplied to other libraries desirous of adopting a similar form of

indicator. It is claimed in the statement from which our information is derived, that "the so-called 'Morgan Indicator,' exhibited at the Librarians' Conference, in October, 1877, is precisely the same as Mr. Kennedy's, and has apparently been copied, without acknowledgment, from the Indicator erected in the Branch Libraries at Sheffield, by means of a model sent direct from Dundee." Models of the Kennedy Indicator have been frequently exhibited at meetings of the Library Association from 1878 and onwards, so that its general appearance and method of working are pretty well known to librarians.

SECOND BARRETT INDICATOR, 1876.

The Indicators described hitherto have been in principle chiefly a series of fixed numbers, qualified by means of pegs alongside them, or tickets placed under, alongside, or over them. The only exception is the Indicator of Mr. Dyall, wherein the disappearance of a number indicated the book out. This was accomplished, however, by the removal of the number block from its column, thereby causing a considerable waste of space. To Mr. F. T. Barrett, of the Mitchell Library, Glasgow, belongs the credit of having invented the movable number, on the economical principle of effecting a change within the space occupied by the number itself. He describes it as follows:—
 "The frame was a series of uprights, say $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. broad, in both sides of which sawmarks to the depth of $\frac{1}{8}$ -in. were cut at intervals of, say $\frac{1}{4}$ -in., all the way down—opposite, of course. The indicator was a strip of zinc, $1\frac{1}{2}$ -in. \times $\frac{3}{4}$ -in., with $\frac{1}{8}$ -in. indents at corners of one end extending rather over $\frac{1}{4}$ -in.—



The projecting tag carrying the number was turned down at right angles,

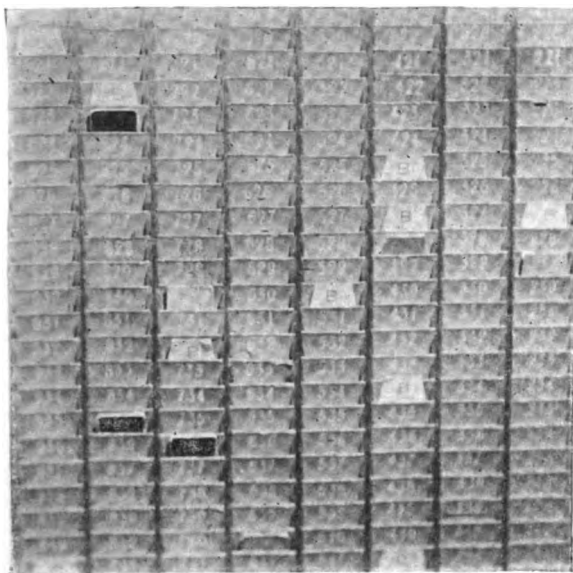
and the slip so formed ran in the saw-cuts in the uprights. When the book was in, the numbered end was turned to the public. When out the slip was turned in the saw-cuts, showing the number to the staff behind. The back of each upright was to be provided with a column of numbers 1 to 00, with the full number at head of each, 8501."

A model of this Indicator was shown at the first International Conference in 1877, and became part of the Museum of Library Appliances formed at that date, but which seems to have vanished without leaving a single trace.

MORGAN INDICATOR, 1876.

As noted in connection with the Kennedy Indicator there is some doubt if the ordinary Morgan Indicator with the diagonal slots is not copied from the Kennedy one, with various little modifications. The

illustration given below shows a portion of the Morgan Indicator from the Derby Public Library, and to Mr. Wm. Crowther, Chief Librarian there, I am indebted for the following description of its working as well as for the photograph:—



Morgan Indicator,

“On a book being issued to a borrower whose card has been presented, its number is at once entered on the dated slip above the date, and the borrower’s number *below*.

The number of the book and the date are then entered in pencil on the back of the borrower’s ticket, and the ticket with the proper colour for the week showing, slipped into the indicator. This covers the number on the public side as well.

The slip is put on a file at the counter and cleared at short intervals by a junior, whose business it is to arrange the slips in numerical order.

Next morning, the slips are checked by the indicator, counted and classified, and the results entered in the statistics book. They are then blended numerically with the others of the current quarter. I know of no statistics likely to be wanted which cannot be readily obtained from these slips. Their blending takes the juniors an hour daily on the average.”

The call-slip alluded to above is a little square of paper with an ordinary rubber stamp impressed on the centre. These are prepared

every morning in sufficient numbers for the day's issues, and they take the form of the diagram figured below :—

<p>5581.</p> <p>FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.</p> <p><i>9 March, '99.</i></p> <p>DERBY.</p> <p>25678.</p>
--

Derby Public Library Call Slip.

The borrower's card differs from the Kennedy one only in shape, and in one or two minor particulars. It is ruled like this :—

Reverse Crimson.	Yellow.	<p>DERBY PUBLIC LIBRARY.</p> <p><i>Name</i></p> <p><i>Address</i></p>	<p style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">No.</p>	Pink.	Reverse Green.
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and the back is a plain white surface on which the issued book numbers are entered. A model of this indicator was shown at the Library Conference of 1877, and at the Oxford meeting of the Library Association in 1878. I am informed by Mr. Alfred Cotgreave that Mr. Morgan designed another indicator with horizontal slots, which was exhibited at the Oxford (1878) and London (1881) meetings of the Library Association. This was worked on the same plan as Mr. Dent's Indicator, previously described, the borrower or book ticket being made to appear or disappear in the slot under the numbers, to indicate books out or in. I have never seen a model or full description of this indicator, but I was given to understand by the late Mr. Morgan that he designed various indicators, and made models for other inventors, and this particular one may have been among them.

(To be continued.)

THE CARD CATALOGUE AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE PRINTED CATALOGUE.

By THOS. E. MAW, *Librarian, Stanley Public Library, King's Lynn.*

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THE ponderous Dictionary Catalogue with its mass of meaningless entries seems to be rapidly sinking into its grave. Once regarded as the giant of the ring whose bulk overawed all comers, it gave unmistakable signs of fatty degeneration, and finding that bellowing and bullying would not silence its nimble opponent, the renascent Class-List, it sulkily retired to get into better form, and, under new trainers, now and then emerges, at varying weights, to feel the strength of new-comers in a friendly encounter. As these doughty champions have not yet been long enough before the public, the cautious man is rather chary of laying long odds either way, but there is a growing feeling in favour of the youthful champion with its appearance of staying power.

This latest battle of the books is not, however, my present concern, for whether the dictionary form (with all modern conveniences), or the Class-List be adopted, my plea for the Card-Catalogue will not be much affected.

It has surely been felt by many librarians that the practice of compiling a complete catalogue in a short time, as well as selecting and purchasing books is most unfair to the librarian and to the public. In many cases the catalogue is published like a special edition of a newspaper, but unlike the newspaper there cannot be a quickly succeeding edition to rectify false information, or to supply omitted items.

The white elephant—for such it too often proves—is relegated to some mysterious chamber, awaiting a buyer, and the librarian ruefully surveys it while he thinks of his gradually increasing pile of catalogue slips of additions, with diminishing hopes of some day having his stock go off, and thus give him his wished for opportunity of issuing a catalogue after his own heart, instead of paltry periodical lists of additions.

But deferred hope maketh the librarian sick at heart, and he then tries to tempt a shy public by selling off his stock of "General Catalogues, reduced from 1s. to 6d., only a few remaining." Some "buyers of bargains" take the bait, but when the excitement of the sale diminishes, he makes a calculation, and finds he has—or the public—paid very dearly for his first catalogue.

The useful work of many libraries is crippled for years by the publication of a complete catalogue, which is soon found to be almost valueless as an index to the contents of the library, and which decreases in value in proportion to the increase in value of the library by added stock.

A library must have a catalogue of some sort, and if the foregoing picture be true of the result of publishing a complete catalogue when the library is opened, the only alternative would seem to be the Class-List or the Card Catalogue.

To issue a classified catalogue in sections would be a great hardship to those who had to wait until their section could be ready.

The remaining alternative is to have a Card Catalogue as the principal catalogue of the library, and to afterwards print and publish the catalogue in sections (or complete) as required, or as funds allowed.

We will suppose a library has 10,000 books in stock for the opening day, and that there is the usual clamour by the public to have the library opened, with a sublime indifference to such trifles as classification, cataloguing, &c.

With a Card Cabinet the work of cataloguing could be carried on without the necessity of having it completed for the opening day, for whether the form be dictionary or classified, it would be complete as far as it had gone.

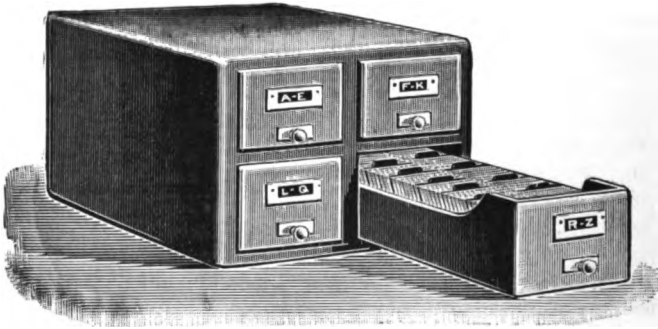
If the dictionary form were adopted, it would mean cataloguing as much of the library as possible before the opening and adding to it, day by day, until the whole of the books were fully catalogued.

Should the classified method be considered the best, and the Dewey method of classification adopted, the following suggestions are offered, some of which might be applied to the dictionary form.

With a stock of 10,000 books, a cabinet of thirty drawers to accommodate 24,000 entries (or two cabinets of fifteen drawers each) would be sufficient.

As the library grew, drawers could be added to any extent, so that the library would never outgrow the catalogue.

The single drawers are most suitable, as they can be taken to the indicator or to a table to be consulted, thereby causing no hindrance to others wishing to get at the other drawers.



The first step would be to make a complete Author Catalogue of the whole of the books, which would be sufficient to allow of the opening of the library. The Subject Catalogue (with or without annotations), which is the true index to the contents of the library, could then be proceeded with.

The dread of the printer's bill is now unknown, and the enthusiast is at liberty to give borrowers all the information he thinks and hopes will be either of interest or assistance in their reading.

There can be no question as to the value of notes to entries where the titles give no indication of the nature or scope of the book, and in the case of histories, the period covered ought to be stated in figures.

The following examples will explain what I mean :—

† Miller, H. *Testimony of the Rocks.* '77.

The reconciliation of geology with the Pentateuch. Miller supposed that the days of the 1st chpt. of Genesis were only those of the vision of creation unrolled by God before Moses, and not actual geologic periods.

† Schmidt, O. *The Mammalia in Their Relation to Primeval Times.* Il. '85. I.S.S.

The connection between the Mammalia of the present day and their fossil prototypes, traced on Darwinian lines Supplementary to the author's Descent and Darwinism.

Alison, A. (1792-1867) *History of Europe (1789-1815).* 12 vols. 1852-56.

Fulke, W. *Defence of the [English] Translations of the Holy Scriptures [1583].* 1843.

Lamb, C. (1775-1834) *Specimens of the English Dramatic Poets (16th and 17th Centuries) [1807].* 1882.

These examples are not given so much to show the advantage of more than the mere title entry, which is now generally allowed, as to show how borrowers may be greatly assisted by the insertion of notes and dates without any extra cost other than the time and thought required.

The Author Catalogue completed and the lending library opened, the Subject Catalogue would be the next consideration. Taking the Dewey classification as the best known, the plan suggested would be as follows :—

To each book would be assigned the Dewey No., which would be carried to the top left-hand corner of the card after the entry had been made.

The subject cards would be red, the reason for which will appear later.

The entry would appear as :—

330	Mill, J. S. (1806-1873)
	PRINCIPLES OF POLITICAL ECONOMY [1848]. 1894. 4764.

(This is a red card.)

This diagram is half scale of card.

† Mr. Jast's Peterborough Class-List. 1898.

The author entry of the same book would appear as :

*330	Mill, J. S. (1806-1873).
	PRINCIPLES OF POLITICAL ECONOMY [1848]. 1894. <div style="text-align: right;">4764</div>

(This is a white card.)

The Class No. in red is to facilitate reference to subject entries on red cards. Of course, the red cards would be kept in drawers apart from white.

The dates in brackets are to show the date of first edition, as this is often of more importance than the date of the edition in the library. The date of the author's birth and death ought to be of interest to all borrowers.

To save time and money, the best way would be to get as many copies of Dewey's book as would be required, and have the Relative Index detached and strongly bound for public use. Should there be an objection to having an index to so many subjects not represented in the library, one copy could be marked as the books were catalogued, and a few copies could be neatly transcribed.

Guides must be very freely used, and if they are cut in thirds for the subject No., thus :

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and two-thirds for the subject heading,

Political Economy.

no difficulty whatever will be experienced in making quick reference to the entries.

We may now assume that the catalogue is completed, and that any additions or alterations to the entries will be made later.

If there is a necessity for a printed catalogue, the classified form is certainly better suited for periodical issue in sections than any other form, but the objection to the issue of the dictionary catalogue in sections is invalid now that we have a complete catalogue at the library, and it is surely better to have section S-Z complete, and free from the imperfections due to hasty compilation, than to have a costly, imperfect,

* This No. is in red ink.

and, a few years after publication, useless alphabetic catalogue, but tressed by annual supplements.

Very few borrowers would hesitate to purchase a class-list at 2d. or 3d. (especially when they are of more value than a mere list), and, in all probability the purchaser of the complete catalogue at 9d. or 1s. would take every class-list or section.

Borrowers, even when they have catalogues at home, seem to prefer consulting the tattered copies on the library desks, the written lists of additions, and the book-case containing the new books. For many reasons it is better that they should do this. It must be very trying, after making a careful selection at home from the general catalogue, three supplements, and two bulletins, to have your list returned marked "all out."

The much talked of ignorant assistant who is keeping his foot so very hard against the closed door, is a ministering angel to the majority of students, however much he may be despised by the man with a grievance against books being kept for members of the committee, and the staff being too gracious to young ladies.

The catalogue at the library brings the borrower and the assistant into closer and friendlier contact, and the borrower reaps the benefit of his extensive and peculiar knowledge of the stock.

One objection urged against the card catalogue is that only two or three can get near the drawers. As there is never a crowd waiting for books other than Fiction, this is easily remedied by having a printed list of Fiction.

There is practically no limit to the aids an untiring librarian may give borrowers, and to the resulting greater usefulness of the library, by means of the card catalogue.

The librarian of a large library, where there is only a card catalogue, recently catalogued the whole of the portraits in the books as an additional help to students of history and biography.

The admirer of Nelson has not to read through a list of additions before he knows that Mahan's *Life of Nelson* has been purchased. If he finds Mahan an interesting writer, and is desirous of reading other books written by him, he has but to look up a few cards, instead of searching through his bulletins, etc., for the past few years, to know whether there are any other books by Mahan, as he sees no such name in the catalogue published ten years ago.

The fear that the cards will get dirty with handling is quite groundless, as with sufficient guides but a few cards are touched and then only the edges.

For a library of 10,000 books a cabinet of 30 drawers, holding 24,000 cards of medium thickness, would cost about £28, or 36,000 thin cards about £30. The thin cards are not so easily handled, as they do not separate quickly, but the medium cards are quite thick enough to allow of ready reference.

One thing must be borne in mind when purchasing. There is a natural desire to have all library work done locally, but this has been found to be both costly and most unsatisfactory, and as a card cabinet

ought to last even longer than "The Wonderful One-Hoss Shay," it is better to get such an article from a specialist.

My object has been to draw attention to a few of the advantages of the card catalogue as the principal catalogue, leaving the question of publishing a catalogue to local requirements or individual opinion, but at any time the "copy" for the printer could be prepared from the cards in a very short time.



FRENCH FICTION IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

By E. A. BAKER, M.A., *Midland Railway Institute, Derby.*

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WHICHEVER way you look at it, there seem to be capital reasons for adding to your lending library a suitable number of novels written in the better-known languages of the continent, since they are useful for educational purposes as well as for the wider aims of culture, while their inclusion can be defended, if you like, as a means of recreation and rational amusement. Next to daily intercourse with foreigners, the finest practice for the learner of a language is to read the native works of fiction; for curiosity and delectation unite to lure the reader onward, and he escapes much of the drudgery and lack of interest that are the ordinary concomitants of study. If only the Romans had left a few romances to exercise the beginner's skill upon, how much human misery might have been averted, and how different would have been the schoolboy's definition of a classic if it had not been introduced to him in the company of strange gerunds and tenses he had never met before. A sound argument in defence of prose fiction is that it tends to enlarge our knowledge of humanity and throws the light of many different minds on the innumerable phases of manners and conduct. Merely to recall the great names of Bjornson, Turgenev, Dostoieffski, Tolstoi, is to realise how powerfully foreign novelists have influenced modern thought; and if French novelists have as a rule disclaimed any serious purpose, such writers as Feuillet, Maupassant, Balzac, Bourget, by their sheer fidelity of representation and analysis, and by their unparalleled frankness and piercing insight, supply food for earnest thought to the student of human nature, and so again do Zola and Huysmans, each in his personal way. Good translations of the leading foreign novelists are eminently desirable; but for the sake of the ever-increasing number who can read the original language (and translations are at best only a makeshift, inferior in style, and inferior as vehicle of the author's ideas), the originals might well be added. At present I am pleading chiefly for French fiction, since that language is known the most widely in this country, and it would therefore be the best to begin with; but more serious works, and works in

other languages, especially German, Italian and Spanish, are also desirable as soon as there is a sufficiency of readers. Many people who intend to keep up their linguistic knowledge adopt a wholesome rule of never reading translations from the languages they are acquainted with.

But is there a demand from the public strong enough to justify the outlay? It is well known that nearly all subscription libraries buy French novels extensively; and if this proves only that people who can afford to pay subscriptions, are in general well educated enough to read French, it must not be forgotten that the standard of popular education is rapidly approaching their standard, or that languages are frequently taught in popular schools, whilst many of the quondam patrons of the subscription library are becoming clients of the public library—a circumstance that promises well for the future. But more cogent than any such inferences are the results obtained in a few of the libraries that have tried the experiment; though it must not be imagined that the French novel can compete with the astonishing achievements of its English rival. Without going to the trouble of gathering statistics from a large number of libraries, which would only be laboriously to confirm what is well proven, I find, in looking through a few score reports and catalogues, that the proportion of those that have more than half-a-dozen French books on their shelves, is about one in ten. Barrow, Bootle, Hammersmith, Kendal, Nottingham, Reading, Richmond-on-Thames, and Willesden Green, are among the libraries that have set this enterprising example; and there are many others, no doubt, whose reports I have not noticed. At Rochdale there are 270 vols. on the shelves, and the librarian considers “that the demand for them sufficiently compensates the expense involved in their purchase.” At Richmond there are 547 vols. of foreign literature in the lending library, and 1,534 issues were recorded last year. At Reading, the librarian says—“Taking English fiction as first in demand, and periodicals as second, I may safely say French fiction comes third.” The Kendal Public Library, though small, has bravely purchased a well chosen collection of 65 vols.; of these Mr. Bond (now of Lincoln), informs me that 43 were issued on an average 21.23 times each in seven years, and 22 were issued 9.46 times each in three years. A larger experiment was tried at Willesden Green, with a stock of 500 vols.; and I am taking the liberty of quoting Mr. Chennell’s figures, showing the issues during last year of some of the most popular works:—

ZOLA (E.) La Débauche ...	42	RICHEBOURG (E.) Jean Loup	26
COURTELINE (G.) Madelon, Margot & Cie.	40	BALZAC (H. de) La femme de trente ans	25
DUMAS (A.) Les Trois Mous- quetaires	38	ZACCONE (P.) Maman Rocam- bole	25
BALZAC (H. de). La Cousine Bette	28	DUMAS (A.) Joseph Balsamo...	24
SAND (G.) Consuelo	28	DUMAS (A.) Une Fille du Régent	23
ZOLA (E.) Lourdes	28	ABOUT (E.) Mariages de Paris	22
SAND (G.) Adriani	27	GENOUILLAC (H.) Les folies de Paris	22
		ABOUT (E.) Trente et Quarante	21

Nottingham reports a weekly issue of about 10 out of 130 vols. ; and the results of a similar experiment at the Midland Railway Institute are equally persuasive.

But a prejudice against the French novel exists in the public mind, which is like that of the man who has never been inside a theatre and never means to. It need hardly be said that it would be quite as fair to bar newspapers of any kind, because there is a disreputable sort that panders to obscene appetites, as to lay an interdict on Bourget, Cherbuliez and Feuillet, because of the sins of such as make pruriency a source of gain. Yet it is true that the different conditions of French life lead novelists to treat themes of illicit passion both more frequently and with much more freedom and frankness than English writers use. This it is which makes discrimination an uneasy problem. But in the case of such debatable books as, for example, Daudet's "Sapho," and Anatole France's "Le lys rouge," each of them a searching and complete diagnosis of sensual passion, it would, I think, be defensible to reject the translation and admit the original, in the trust that the readers who can master the French of these authors will be mature of mind and intelligent enough to receive nothing but good from works of so much truth and sincerity. But each library must needs determine its own standard in these matters ; and the remark of Mr. W. H. Greenhough, that at Reading, borrowers of both sexes from the colleges and high-schools use the library of French literature, is a reminder how serious the question is. Expurgated editions are as often as not a total mistake ; many French works have been emasculated by the process to such a degree that they are formless and void to anyone who knows their authors in the original. [*See Select List on page 79.*]



THE LIBRARY STAFF.

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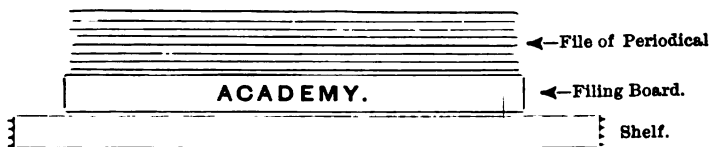
THIS DEPARTMENT is conducted for the special, but not exclusive, benefit of the earnest and studious Library Assistant, who is determined to make his or her way in the profession of Librarianship. An effort will be made to cover in a gradual and complete manner, the whole of the ground occupied by the technical side of the craft, and to enable this to be thoroughly done, brief practical notes of any kind are solicited from assistants or librarians in any sort of library. Ethical disquisitions on deportment and disagreeable controversial notes are not wanted. Every assistant should make a point of sending at least one note annually bearing on the daily routine work of a library. Nothing is too trivial or trite to be thoroughly discussed.

EDITED BY A LANCASHIRE LIBRARIAN.

Checks on Assistants. THE writer who falls foul of Mr. Jast's sensible proposal for checking and preventing staff slovenliness, must either be an erring assistant or a librarian accustomed to the work of a staff of accurate and painstaking assistants. I can see

nothing either immoral or illegal in a straightforward attempt to check slipshod work in the public service, and, in the interests of those earnest assistants who *do* strive after accuracy, I think Mr. Jast's method is not only commendable on its own merits, but is a very positive protection to the careful assistant against his fellow who wilfully scamps his work. If an enquiry were instituted into the methods adopted by large business firms for securing reasonable accuracy and punctuality, it would be found that such checks as mechanical and human time-keepers, check clerks, self-checking book-keeping, &c., are not only universal, but, in most cases, conjoined with extreme penalties for carelessness, which take the form of fines and instant dismissal. It is not only on practical and ethical grounds that Mr. Jast's moderate proposals can be defended, but on the equally important score of public utility and convenience. However much an assistant's carelessness may shock and embarrass a librarian and committee, it is certain to tell against the public to a much more acute degree, and anything which will tend to prevent undue friction between staff and readers should be heartily welcomed. By all means let us have "friendly advice and expostulation, combined with personal supervision," but let us also resort to mechanical and less fallible means, in case moral suasion gets rusty from want of application, or too smooth for practical purposes by overuse.

Filing Periodicals. As a further contribution to this topic, we print the following communication:—"The note on p. 41 of last month's *Library World* might be supplemented by the additional statement that the method is in use at the Mitchell Library, Glasgow, where it was introduced sometime ago by Mr. F. T. Barrett. The plan is so simple that it can be displayed by a few printer's rules, thus:—



New Binding Material. IN a former number of the *Library World* allusion was made to Pegamoid cloth as a binding material. We understand several libraries have adopted it, but with varying results. Since that time a new material called "Peltine" has been introduced which seems to promise good results. It is claimed for it that it is very strong and almost untearable; is practically waterproof; pliable and easily worked; free from objectionable smell; has an indestructible surface; can be supplied in any colour and in any grain; and last, but not least, will take gold lettering or blocking without previous preparation. Some samples which we have seen seem to bear out most of these claims, but only an extended trial in Public Libraries as a covering for books and periodical cases can demonstrate its value as a binding material. The "Peltine" is made in skins or

sheets 36 × 18 inches, by the Peltine Leather Co, Millikenpark, N.B., and costs about 9d. or 10d. a skin. We shall be glad to publish the experience of any librarian who may give this material a trial.

Library	BUILDINGS AND FITTINGS.
Methodology.	C
32 Juvenile Rooms	76 Screens
34 Ladies' Rooms	78 Reading Stands
36 Students' Rooms	1 Newspaper
38 Lecture and Exhibition Rooms	3 Magazines
40 Magazine Rooms	5 Adjustable for Tables
42 Class Rooms	80 Reading Tables and Desks
44 Recreation or Conversation Rooms	82 Chairs, Forms, &c.
46 Special Accommodation	84 Ladders and Steps
1 Ratepayers' Rooms	86 Cabinets
3 Photographic Dark Rooms	1 Stationery
5 Club Rooms	3 Catalogue
48 Committee Rooms	5 Special
50 Librarian's Rooms	88 Indicators
1 Office	1 Elliot
2 Residence	3 Cotgreave
52 Staff Rooms	5 Chivers
54 Caretaker's Rooms	7 Others
56 Lavatory Accommodation	90 Charging Trays
1 Public	1 Stock Card
3 Staff	3 Issue
58 Lobbies	5 Borrowers
60 Work Rooms	7 Special
1 Binderies	92 Boxes
3 General or Packing	1 Pamphlets
5 Cataloguing	3 Stores
62 Lifts and Book Carriers	5 Letters
64 Telephones	7 Filing
66 Speaking Tubes	94 Office Furniture
68 Fire Extinguishing Apparatus	1 Writing Desks
70 Floor Coverings	96 Typewriters
72 Counters	98 Copying Presses
1 Ordinary	100 Manifoldng Machines
3 Indicator	102 Printing Apparatus
5 Open Access	104 Foundation Stones
74 Shelving	106 Memorial Plates or Stones
1 Fixed, wooden	108 Opening Ceremonies
3 Adjustable, wooden	110 Catalogues of Appliances
5 Metal, adjustable	112 Samples of Appliances
7 Special	

The Indexing of Supplies. THE system described in the July "Library Staff," for "The Indexing of Supplies," is one which cannot fail to commend itself to librarians who have "ragged at their staff until everyone was sulky, and a general air of melancholy had settled over the establishment," because the typewriter paper had been misplaced! It will no doubt work all right when the supplies are kept in one receptacle, which may be easily diagrammed, but it is another thing when a few of the supplies are kept in a cupboard at the counter, a few in the drawers attached to the sub-librarian's desk, a few more in the third top drawer on the right-hand side of the librarian's desk

while the larger and heavier part of the supplies are stowed away in a cupboard in the basement. What system is to be adopted then? We cannot have a plan of the library on a card, showing all the cupboards, drawers, etc., but we can still have a card index of our supplies, with the location written below; in fact this, I think, is the better system for those librarians who may not have a duplicating apparatus or the skill of a draughtsman. It is an easy matter to index our supplies thus:—

- Brown Paper—Basement cupboard.
- Post Cards, donation—Press 1, sh. 2.
- Post Cards, ordinary—Press 2, sh. 1.
- Voucher Forms—Sub-librarian's desk, drawer 2. Etc.

At any rate I think this by no means a bad alternative to the graphic method, which is not always within the means of small libraries.

Mounting Catalogue Copy. A CORRESPONDENT has forwarded the following note, supplementary to our remarks on "Mounting Catalogue Copy." He says: "In the July 'Library Staff' there is a paragraph on the above, and though the following remarks are perhaps trivial and of no importance, still, as 'A Lancashire Librarian' says, 'Nothing is too trivial or trite to be thoroughly discussed'—at least under the heading of 'The Library Staff.' If assistants interested will read first of all the paragraph in the July number, perhaps they will understand the following word or two. In our Library a slate is not used in mounting copy. Instead of covering the slate with paste, the mounting paper is covered, and then the slips are laid on. Of course the assistant watches to see that none of the paper projects beyond the slips, as this would cause the sheets to stick one to the other. This method saves the chance of error, so far as only one slip can be dealt with at once, and it saves time." We regret that we do not agree with our correspondent on the point. Time is saved so far as the handling of the slips are concerned, but it must take longer to paste a sheet of paper, taking care that none of the paste projects beyond the width of the slips; then, again, the paste-brush is apt to adhere to the paper, whereas the reverse is the case with the slate and cloth cover. We would advise our correspondent to try our plan, as we feel sure it will be found a smarter and cleaner way, with no chance of error, if only one slip is dealt with at once.



LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS.

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We shall be glad to receive items of news for this department from Librarians and others, as to changes in the working or policy of Libraries, appointments, adoptions of the Libraries' Acts, or anything of general interest.

EVERY now and again some globe-trotter wanders into one or other of the larger **American libraries** and forthwith publishes a magazine article, which gives readers the impression that the United States has

an enormous number of magnificent libraries, while the old country has none worthy of mention. Such an article appears in the August number of the *Temple Magazine*. It is devoted to the new Boston Public Library, and describes in ecstatic detail the millions of dollars worth of splendid staircases, frescoes, Cape Cod sand, dust bags, Sienna marble, pneumatic tubes, electric railways, and so forth, to be seen in the building. The splendid annual income enjoyed by Boston is also mentioned with some unction. Luckily, it is not the custom among librarians to measure the work and usefulness of public libraries by the amount spent on decoration or mechanical labour-savers, and if the writer of the article in question were to extend his inquiries among the libraries of England, he would find that, although not yet provided with frescoes by Sargent, Abbey, etc., they were accomplishing *work* far in excess of the American libraries of a corresponding size, on means generally less than half what is appropriated for library purposes in the United States. Any British Public Library could make a glorious splash with an income of £52,000, but when one reflects that the largest public library rate in this country produces considerably less than half that amount, the marvel is that with such comparatively restricted means the quantity and quality of the work done should be so much in favour of the old country.

THE **Evesham** Public Library Committee has just issued its first Annual Report, covering the two years since the opening. The books, numbering about 5,700, were chiefly from the stock of the old Evesham Institute, and have been classified and catalogued by the librarian, Mr. M. J. Cumming. The library has been prosperous, and 544 borrowers are enrolled. The annual library rate realizes £110.

Mr. **Evelyn J. Foot**, for eight years an assistant in the Mitchell Library, Glasgow, has resigned. He goes to fill a position as journalist on the staff of the *Govan Press*.

MR. ANDREW CARNEGIE has intimated his intention of presenting £10,000 to **Keighley**, for the purpose of providing a Public Library building, on condition that the town adopts the Public Libraries Acts. A committee to consider the question had already been appointed, and it is expected that this generous donation will lead to the immediate adoption of the Acts.

A MOVEMENT is in progress at **Rochdale** to procure Parliamentary powers to increase the library rate from 1d. to 2d. in the £. The library committee has moved in the matter, but some opposition will probably be met with.

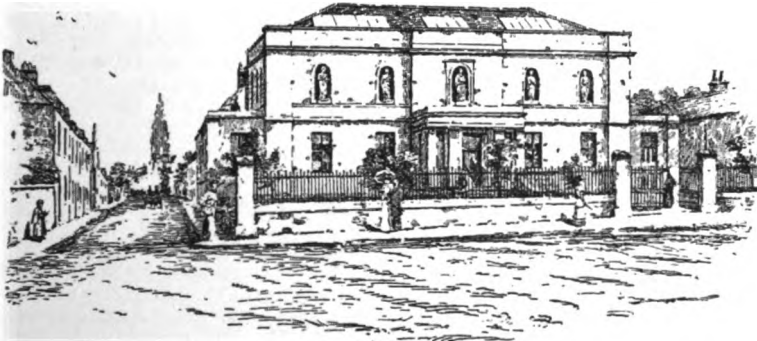
By his will the late Mr. George Graham, engineer-in-chief to the Caledonian Railway Company, who resided at Glasgow, bequeaths a portion of his library to the parishioners of **Applegarth** and **Sib-baldie**, Dumfriesshire, as an addition to any existing library, or to form a nucleus for a public library for the use of the inhabitants of the parish.

THE Urban District Council of **Abergavenny** adopted the Public Libraries' Acts on August 2nd, on the proposition of Major Williams, by seven votes to four. The 1d. rate will realize £115.

FOR some time past negotiations have been in progress between the Drapers' Company, as the Governors of the **People's Palace**, and the Public Libraries' Committee of the Mile End Vestry, with a view to the transfer of the fine collection of books at the Palace to the Public Library controlled by the Vestry. Both the Company and the Vestry were exceedingly anxious to come to an agreement on the matter, but legal difficulties of a complicated nature have prevented the consummation of the idea, and the library is therefore to remain an integral part of the Palace and its scheme of education.

ACCORDING to the *Hornsey and Finsbury Park Journal*, which contains a description of the building, the **Hornsey** Public Library will be opened by the Lord Chancellor on October 26th. The central building is now well forward, after a number of delays, caused by strikes, etc., and will be quite an architectural feature in the district.

THE question of adopting the Public Libraries' Acts has been before the **Spennymoor** Urban District Council, and the matter has been referred to a special committee of the whole council for further consideration.



Arbroath Public Library.

THE First Report of the **Arbroath** Public Library has been issued and shows a circulation of 94,857 volumes for the year. The stock is 15,022 volumes, of which 12,000 are for lending. A list of books which are missing from the stock transferred from the old Subscription Library is printed, and neglectful borrowers are asked to return them. An interesting feature of the Report is a list of committees and sub-committees, with their duties.

THE special Act under which the city of **Glasgow** is empowered to levy a 1d. rate for public library purposes, independent of the General Scotch Act, has now become law, and it is probable steps will be taken soon to carry the new Act into effect.

The **Tain** Town Council, on July 17th, unanimously resolved to adopt the Public Library (Scotland) Act. Mr. Andrew Carnegie, with his usual generosity, has agreed to give £1,000 towards establishing the library, on condition that as much is raised by local efforts.

DURING 1898-99 the **Rotherhithe** Public Library issued 37,560 volumes, and the stock is now 7,817 volumes. The Report is described as "Eighth and Final," the management of the library having been transferred to the Vestry, as previously reported.

THE **Camberwell Public Libraries** continue to maintain their remarkable success. The report of the Chief Librarian (**Mr. Edward Foskett**) records an eminently satisfactory year's operations. There are now six libraries and an Art Gallery administered under the Public Libraries' Act. The present stock of books is 64,778. The issue of volumes to readers during the past twelve months reached a total of 649,098; of these 228,862 (35.2 per cent.) related to history, biography, arts, sciences, etc.; 151,660 (23.4 per cent.) juvenile literature; and 268,576 (41.4 per cent.) were novels. Notwithstanding the enormous issue of the books, only one volume was unaccounted for at the annual stock-taking; but several books had not been returned by borrowers who had changed their addresses and could not be traced. Over two-and-a-half-million visits were paid to the libraries and Art Gallery during the year.

Mr. **Gill Parker**, the Assistant Secretary of the Leeds Institute of Science, Art and Literature, has been appointed, out of seventy-five applicants, Curator of the Ruskin Museum, at Sheffield.



SELECT LISTS OF BOOKS ON SPECIAL SUBJECTS.

o o o

SHORTHAND.

By H. G. T. CANNONS, *Sub-Librarian, Clerkenwell Public Library.*

THE literature of Shorthand having made such vast strides within the last few years, and the subject having taken its place in the foremost ranks of the Educational Systems of the present day, it has been thought desirable to compile a select list of the more recent works.

BIBLIOGRAPHY.

Rockwell (J. E.) *Bibliography of Shorthand Works in English.* 1885. Bureau of Education, Washington.

[Contains many foreign entries.]

Westby-Gibson (Dr. J.) *Bibliography of Shorthand.* 8vo. 1887. 5s. Pitman.
[English language only.]

HISTORY.-

- Anderson (Thomas). History of Shorthand with a review of its present condition in Europe and America. 8vo. 1882. 12s. 6d. Allen.
- Anderson (Thos.) *ed.* Shorthand Systems. 8vo. 1883. 1s. Upcott Gill.
[Discussion by experts upon the various systems.]
- Faulmann (Prof. K.) Geschichte und Litteratur der Stenographie. 8vo. n.d. Vienna.
- Levy (Matthias). History of Shorthand Writing, with Systems used by Authors. 8vo. 1885. 5s. Trübner & Co.
- Moser (Hans). Allgemeine Geschichte d. Stenographie. Vol I. Leipzig.
[Commences with classical times, and is intended to bring the history down to the present day.]
- Pitman (Sir Isaac). A History of Shorthand. 8vo. 1891. 2s. Pitman.
[Describes Pitman's system only.]
- Reed (T. A.) A Chapter in the Early History of Phonography, with a Preface by Sir I. Pitman. 8vo. 1884. 1s. Pitman.
- Rockwell (J. E.) Teaching, Practice, and Literature of Shorthand. 1885. Bureau of Education, Washington.
[On Shorthand systems; Shorthand in foreign countries; Shorthand in the United States. Bibliography of Shorthand.]
- Taylor (Samuel). System of Stenography [1786]. 8vo. 1865. Simpkin.
[Of considerable historical importance.]
- Upham (W. P.) Brief History of the Art of Stenography, with a proposed New System. 8vo. [1877.] \$1.25. Salem, Mass.
- Westby-Gibson (Dr. J.) Early Shorthand Systems. 12mo. 1883. Pitman.

SYSTEMATIC.

- Abbot (F.) Swiftograph, a Simple Shorthand System. 8vo. 1897. 1s. Jarrold.
- Allen (G. G.) Universal Phonography, or Shorthand by the "Allen Method."
- Armitage (M.) Syllabic Writing, or Shorthand Made Easy. 8vo. 1885. 6d. Armitage & Batley
- Barter (J.) Manual of A.B.C. Shorthand. 8vo. 1886. 6d. Allman.
- Barter (J.) Self-Instructor in A.B.C. Shorthand. 8vo. 1886. 1s. 6d. Allman.
- Browne (W. T.) The "Simplex" Shorthand, being a System of Shorthand based upon Simple, Practical, and Straightforward Principles. 8vo. 1891. 1s. 6d. Heywood.
- Callendar (H. L.) Manual of Cursive Shorthand. 8vo. 1889. 2s. Cambridge Press.
- Callendar (H. L.) Manual of Orthographic Cursive Shorthand. [Cambridge System.] 8vo. 1889. 1s. Cambridge Press.
[The best of the "One-Slope Systems.]
- Callendar (H. L.) Supplement to the Manual of Orthographic Cursive Shorthand. 8vo. 1890. 6d. Cambridge Press.
- Callendar (H. L.) Primer of Cursive Shorthand, 8vo. 1889. 6d. Cambridge Press.
- Celestial Writing : or the Norman Script Phonetic Writing. 8vo. 1892. 1s. 6d. Sonnenschein.
[An abbreviated script phonetic system on a modified form of the consonant alphabet of Gabelsberger]
- Cross (J. G.) Eclectic Shorthand. 46th ed. 12mo. 1895. 9s. Chicago.
- Dimbleby (J. P.) Shorthand Dictionary. 8vo. 1894. 1s. 6d. Drane.
- Everett (J. D.) School Shorthand; containing a very complete course of practical instruction. 8vo. n.d. 1s. 6d. Bemrose.
[Key to the above 2d.]
- Everett (J. D.) Shorthand Lessons (Reprinted from *The School Journal*.) 8vo. 1s.
[Key to the above. 8vo. 6d.]
- Everett (J. D.) Shorthand for General Use. 8vo. 1883. 1s. 6d. Marcus Ward.
- Greg (John K.) Light Line Phonography.
- Gurney (J.) Textbook of the Gurney System of Shorthand, by W. B. Gurney & Sons. 8vo. 1884. 3s.
[By the present Shorthand writers to the Houses of Parliament.]

- Hay (W.) Shorthand Simplified and Improved. 8vo. 1892. 1s. 6d. Sonnenschein.
[New and simple method, somewhat on the lines of the 18th century styles of Byrom and Lewis, but with a much more exact representation of vowels.]
- Janes (Alfred). Phonetic Shorthand; a new and complete system. 12mo. 1887. 1s.
- Kingston (A.) Phonography in the Office, a Complete Shorthand Clerk's Guide. 8vo. 1893. 2s. Pitman.
- Lowes (J. D.) Shorthand (Pitman superseded; Taylor Improved), for acquiring in half-an-hour the method of taking down sermons, speeches, &c., without the aid of a master. 16mo. 6d. 1898. Scott.
[This system is noteworthy for its simplicity.]
- Malone (T. S.) Script Phonography. 8vo. 1899. Script Phonograph Co., Glasgow.
- Mares (G. Carl). Rational Shorthand. 8vo. 1887.
- Miller (R. E.) Lessons in Shorthand, on Gurney's System (improved) Being instructions in the Art of Shorthand Writing as used in the service of the two Houses of Parliament. 8vo. 1898. 1s. Upcott Gill.
- Miller (R. E.) Exercises in Shorthand for daily half-hours, on a newly devised and simple method, free from the labour of learning. *III.* 8vo. 9d. Upcott Gill.
[Being Part 2 of Lessons in Shorthand on Gurney's System (improved).]
- Munson (J. E.) Art of Phonography: New and Complete Text-book of Munson's System. 12mo. 1896. 10s. 6d.
- Pitman (Sir Isaac) Manual of Phonography. 8vo. 1893. 2s.
[Key to the above 6d.]
- Phonographic Phrase Book. 8vo. 1897. 1s. 6d.
- Phonographic Reporters, or Reporter's Companion. 8vo. 1897. 2s. 6d.
[Key to the above. 6d.]
- Phonographic Teacher; a First Book in Shorthand. 8vo. 1897. 6d.
[Key to the above. 6d.]
- Progressive Studies in Phonography; for the use of Self-Taught Students of the "Teacher," and succeeding Text-books. 8vo. 1897. 1s. 6d.
- Reporter's Assistant; a Key to the Reading of the Reporting Style. 8vo. 1897. 1s. 6d.
- Shorthand Dictionary. 8vo. 1897. 5s.
- Shorthand Instructor. 8vo. 1892. 3s. 6d.
[Key to Instructor. 8vo. 1892. 1s. 6d.]
- Shorthand Letter Writer and Key. 8vo. 1897. 2s. Pitman.
- Pocknell (E.) Legible Shorthand.
- Reed (T. A.) Technical Reporting; Containing Abbreviations for Words and Phrases used in Legal, Scientific, and other Technical Subjects. 8vo. 1893. 2s. Pitman.
- Shorthand Writer, Guide to the Commercial Uses of Shorthand. 8vo. 1892. 3s. 6d. Pitman.
- Short Hints on Shorthand, Rules and Examples by which the Art of Reading and Writing Stenography may be speedily acquired, by a *Times* Reporter. 8vo. 1s. Houlston.
- Sloan-Duployan Phonography, Reporter's Rules and Abbreviations. 8vo. 1887. Sloan-Duployan Office.
- Sloan (J. M.) Sloan-Duployan Phonographic Instructor. 8vo. 1893. Sloan-Duployan Office.
- Spencer (W. G.) Lucid Shorthand. 8vo. 1894. 1s. Williams & Norgate.
- Sweet (H.) Manual of Current Shorthand, Orthographic and Phonetic. 8vo. 1892. 4s. 6d. Clarendon Press.
[Abbreviated Longhand, on the "Script" basis, and the words all written at one level.]
- Teaching of Orthic. Part I.—A Series of Lessons for the use of Teachers and Students, not including the Reporting Style. 8vo. 1895. 1s.
- Part II.—Containing the Reporting Style. 8vo. 1895. 1s. Cambridge Press.
- Young (M.) Readable Shorthand. 12mo. 1895. 2s. 6d. Stanford.

ABBREVIATED LONGHAND.

- Anderson (Thomas). Simplified Longhand. 8vo. 1882. 2s. Allen.
 [Shorthand characters by longhand letters.]
 Anderson (Thomas). Synopsis of a New System of Short Writing. 8vo. 1878.
 1s. Rankin.
 Bennett (Eug.) Condensed Longhand. 12mo. 1883. \$1. New York.
 — Condensed Longhand as used by the American Press. 12mo. 1884. \$1.
 New York.
 Davies (D. S.) Manual of Sonography: or Longhand Shorthand. 8vo. 1887.
 2s. Morgan.
 Kimmei (M. G.) Longhand Shorthand. 12mo. 1883. 75c. Valparaiso.
 Ritchie (Wallace) Shorthand Simplified; System of Abbreviated Longhand.
 12mo. 1875. 1s. Russell.



SELECT LIST OF FRENCH FICTION.

By E. A. BAKER, M.A., *Midland Railway Institute, Derby.*

THE following selection does not pretend to be a list of all the best French novels; to compile such a list would involve more weighing and pondering than has been taken in the present case. It is merely offered as a list of useful and notable works such as would make a fair collection to start with. [See article on page 68.]

- About (Edm.) Trente et quarante. 65.* Dulau. 1s. 8d.
 Achard (Amédée). Belle-rose. Levy. 3s.
 — La chasse à l'idéal. 67. Hachette. 1s.
 Adam (Paul). La force. 99. Ollendorff. 3s. 6d.
 Assollant (Alf.) Marcomir, histoire d'un étudiant. 60. Dulau. 1s.
 Balzac (Honoré de). La Maison du Chat qui pelote. 29. Levy. 1s. 3d.
 — La peau de chagrin. 30. Levy. 1s. 3d.
 — Le médecin de campagne. 33. Levy. 1s. 3d.
 — Le curé de Tours. 34. Levy. 1s. 3d.
 — Eugénie Grandet. 34. Levy. 1s. 3d.
 — Le père Goriot. 35. Levy. 1s. 3d.
 — Illusions perdues. Levy. 1s. 3d.
 — Ursule Mironet. 42.
 — Splendeurs et misères des courtisanes. 45. Levy. 1s. 3d.
 — Le cousin Pons. 46. Levy. 1s. 3d.
 Bernard (C. de). Gerfaut. 38. Bernard. 10d.
 "Bentzon (Thdr.)" Jacqueline. 95. Bernard. 2s. 8d.
 Bergerat (Emile). La vierge. 94. Ollendorff.
 Beyle (Marie H.) [De Stendhal.] Le rouge et le noir. 30. Dulau. 2s. 6d.
 — La Chartreuse de Parme. 39. Dulau. 3s. 6d.
 Bourget (Paul). André Cornelis. 87. Dulau. 2s. 8d.
 — Mensonges. 87. Dulau. 2s. 8d.
 — Un cœur de femme. 90. Dulau. 2s. 8d.
 — Un saint. 94. Dulau. 2s. 8d.
 — Complications sentimentales. 98. Dulau. 2s. 8d.
 Chateaubriand (*Le Vicomte de*). Atala, René. 1805. Dulau. 2s. 6d.
 Cherbuliez (Victor). Le comte Kostia. 63. Dulau. 3s. 6d.
 — Le roman d'une honnête femme. 66. Dulau. 3s. 6d.
 — Méta Holdenis. 73. Dulau. 3s. 6d.
 — Samuel Brohl et Cie. 77. Dulau. 3s. 6d.
 — Une gageure. 90. Dulau. 3s. 6d.
 Conscience (H.) Scènes de la vie Flamande. Dulau. 1s. 8d.

* In dates belonging to the 19th century, only the last two digits are given.

- Constant de Rebecque (H. B.) Adolphe. 16. Jouaust. 3s. 6d.
 Coppée (Fs.) Les vrais riches. Dulau. 3s. 4d.
 Daudet (Alphonse). Tartarin de Tarascon. 72. Dulau. 3s.
 — Tartarin sur les Alpes [seq.] Dulau. 3s.
 — Jack, histoire d'un ouvrier. 73. Dulau. 6s.
 — Fromont jeune et Risler aîné. 74. Dulau. 3s. 6d.
 — Numa Roumestan. 81. Dulau. 3s. 6d.
 — Sapho. 84. Marpon. 3s.
 Deroulède (Paul). Histoire d'amour. 90. Levy. 1s.
 Dumas (Alex.) Les trois mousquetaires. 44. Dulau. 1s. 8d.
 — Vingt ans après [seq.] 45. Dulau. 2s. 6d.
 — Le vicomte de Bragelonne [seq.] 48-50. Dulau. 5s.
 — Le comte de Monte Cristo. Dulau. 5s.
 — La reine Margot. 45. Dulau. 1s. 8d.
 — La dame de Monsoreau. 46. Dulau. 2s. 6d.
 — La tulipe noire. 50. Dulau. 10d.
 Dumas (Alex.), fils. La dame aux camélias. 48. 10d.
 Erckmann Chatrian, MM. Histoire d'un conscrit de 1813. 64. Dulau. 2s. 6d.
 — L'histoire d'un plébisците. 72. Dulau. 2s. 6d.
 Feuillet (Octave). La petite comtesse; Le parc; Onesta. 48-56. Dulau. 2s. 8d.
 — Le roman d'un jeune homme pauvre. 58. Dulau. 2s. 8d.
 — L'histoire de Sibylle. 62. Dulau. 2s. 8d.
 — Julia de Trécœur. 72. Dulau. 2s. 8d.
 — La morte. 87. Dulau. 2s. 8d.
 Flaubert (Gustave) Madame Bovary, mœurs de province. 57. Dulau. 2s. 8d.
 — Salammbô. 62. Dulau. 2s. 8d.
 France (Anatole). Thais. Dulau. 2s. 8d.
 — L'étui de nacre [short stories] 96. Dulau. 2s. 8d.
 — Le lys rouge. Dulau. 2s. 8d.
 Gautier (Théophile). Le capitaine Fracasse. 63. Dulau. 5s. 4d.
 — Romans et contes; Avatar; Jettatura, &c. 57. Dulau. 2s. 8d.
 Goncourt (Edm. and Jules de). Nouvelles. [La morte amoureuse, Fortunio, &c.] Dulau. 2s. 8d.
 — Germinie Lacerteux. Dulau. 2s. 8d.
 "Gyp" [Mme. la Comtesse de Martel]
 — Mariage civil. 92. Dulau. 2s. 8d.
 — Le mariage de Chiffon. 94. Dulau. 2s. 8d.
 — Bijou. 97. Dulau. 2s. 8d.
 Hugo (Victor). Notre Dame de Paris. 31. Dulau. 3s. 4d.
 — Les Misérables. 62. Dulau. 13s. 7d.
 — Quatre-vingt-treize. 74. Dulau. 5s.
 — Les travailleurs de la mer. 65. Dulau. 3s. 4d.
 Huysmans (Joris-Karel). En route. 95. Stock. 2s. 6d.
 — La cathédrale [seq.] 97. Stock. 2s. 6d.
 Julliot (Fs. de). La folle du logis. 91. Kolb. 3s. 6d.
 Lemaitre (Jules). Les rois. 93. Levy. 3s. 6d.
 — Myrrha, vierge et martyre. 94. Levy. 3s. 6d.
 Le Sage. Gil Blas de Santillane. 1715. Charpentier. 3s.
 "Loti (Pierre)" [Julien Viaud]. Le mariage de Loti. 80. Dulau. 2s. 8d.
 — Mon frère Yoès. 83. Dulau. 2s. 8d.
 — Pecheur d'Islande. 86. Dulau. 2s. 8d.
 — Matelot. 93. Dulau. 3s. 7d.
 Maistre (Xavier de). Voyage autour de ma chambre. 97. Charpentier. 3s.
 Marlot (Hector). Sans famille. Dulau. 5s. 4d.
 Margueritte. Pascal Géfosse, mœurs du jour. 87. Kolb. 3s. 6d.
 — (Paul). Ma grande. 91. Kolb. 3s. 6d.
 Maupassant (Guy de). Notre cœur. Dulau. 2s. 8d.
 — Pierre et Jean. 88. Dulau. 2s. 8d.
 Merimée (Prosper). Colomba; La Venus d'Ille; Mateo Falcone, &c. 30-40.
 Dulau. 2s. 8d.
 — Carmen; Arsène Guillot; L'Abbé Aubain, &c. 40-50. Dulau. 2s. 8d.

- Murger (H.) *La vie de Bohème*, 48. Dulau. 10d.
 — *Les buveurs d'eau*. 54. Dulau. 10d.
 Ohnet (G.) *Serge Panine*. 81. Dulau. 2s. 8d.
 — *Le maître de forges*. 82. Dulau. 2s. 8d.
 Prévost (Ant. Fs.) *Manon Lescant*. 1733. Dulau. 1s. 8d.
 Reybaud (Marie Roch L.) *Jérôme Paturot à la recherche d'une position sociale*.
 43. 10d.
 Rousseau (J. Jacques). *La nouvelle Héloïse*. 1760. Dulau. 2s. 6d.
 Saintine (X. B.) *Picciola*. 63. Dulau. 2s. 8d.
 Saint Pierre (Bernardin de). *Paul et Virginie*. 1786-88.
 "Sand G." *Lélia*. 33. Dulau. 1s. 4d.
 — *Mauprat*. 37. Dulau. 2s. 8d.
 — *Consuelo*. 3 v. 42. Dulau. 2s. 6d.
 — *La Mare au Diable*. 46. Dulau. 2s. 8d.
 — *La petite Fadette*. 48. Dulau. 2s. 8d.
 Sandeau (Jules). *Le docteur Herbeau*. 41. Dulau. 2s. 8d.
 — *Mademoiselle de la Seiglière*. 48. Dulau. 2s. 8d.
 — *Madeleine*. 48. Dulau. 2s. 8d.
 Souvestre (Emile). *Le foyer Breton*. 44. Dulau. 1s. 7d.
 — *Derniers Bretons*. 35-7. Dulau. 1s. 7d.
 — *Un philosophe sous les toits*. 51. Dulau. 10d.
 Theuriet (André). *Reine des bois*. 89. Dulau. 2s. 8d.
 — *Boisfleuri*. 98.
 Vigny (*Comte Alf. de*). *Cinq-Mars ou une conjuration sous Louis XIII*. 26. 2s. 8d.
 Voltaire (Fs. Arouet de). *Romans*. 1759. Dulau. 2s. 6d. *Zadig, ou la destinée*.
Micromégas, histoire philosophique. *Candide ou l'optimisme*. *L'ingénu*.
 Didot. 2s. 6d.
 Zola (Emile). *Contes à Ninon*. 64. Dulau. 2s. 8d.
 — *La conquête de Plassans*. Dulau. 2s. 8d.
 — *Un page d'amour*. Dulau. 2s. 8d.
 — *Le rêve*. 88. Dulau. 2s. 8d.
 — *La débâcle*. Dulau. 2s. 8d.
 — *Le docteur Pascal*. 93. Dulau. 2s. 8d.
 — *Paris*. 97. Dulau. 2s. 8d.



LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS.

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THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

As anticipated in our last number, the interest displayed in the election of members of Council has been very slight, and hardly any change in the constitution of the Council has occurred. One or two alterations have been made among the Vice-Presidents, but, as will be seen from the return printed below, the London and country members remain as before. In addition to the arrangements for the Manchester meeting, noted previously, there will be an all-day trip to Chester and Eaton Hall, the seat of the Duke of Westminster, on Friday, September 8th.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

		<i>Elected.</i>			
		No of Votes.		No. of Votes.	
Sir W. H. Bailey	...	195	J. Potter Briscoe	...	162
Francis T. Barrett	...	192	E. W. B. Nicholson	...	159
C. W. Sutton	...	191	T. Mason...	...	138
P. Cowell	...	180	T. W. Lyster	...	137
J. Passmore Edwards	...	174	Rev. W. H. Milman	...	129
G. K. Fortescue	...	163	W. R. Douthwaite	...	121
<i>Not Elected.</i>					
J. D. Mullins	...	114	T. Greenwood	...	102
W. H. K. Wright	...	109	T. G. Law, LL.D.	...	100

LONDON COUNCILLORS.

		<i>Elected.</i>			
Frank Campbell	...	183	J. D. Brown	...	150
F. J. Burgoyne	...	175	W. E. Doubleday	...	148
J. Y. W. MacAlister	...	169	A. W. Pollard	...	148
J. H. Quinn	...	169	Herbert Jones	...	147
E. M. Borrajo	...	165	C. T. Davis	...	131
L. Inkster	...	162	J. R. Boosé	...	126
<i>Not Elected.</i>					
S. Martin	...	86	C. W. F. Goss	...	64
H. D. Roberts	...	80	W. C. Plant	...	64

COUNTRY COUNCILLORS.

		<i>Elected.</i>			
H. Guppy	...	194	J. P. Edmond	...	155
J. Ballinger	...	190	G. T. Shaw	...	155
H. T. Folkard	...	185	S. Smith	...	155
J. J. Ogle...	...	179	A. W. Robertson...	...	154
W. E. A. Axon	...	172	T. W. Hand	...	153
Butler Wood	...	171	C. Madeley	...	149
W. May	...	170	G. L. Campbell	...	141
R. K. Dent	...	168	Alderman W. H. Brittain	...	132
W. Crowther	...	163	G. H. Elliott	...	130
E. R. N. Mathews	...	156	C. V. Kirkby	...	124
<i>Not Elected.</i>					
A. Cotgreave	...	116	Z. Moon	...	68
F. A. Turner	...	86	J. A. Seymour	...	36
W. Bridle...	...	74	H. S. Newland	...	33

THE following list of Papers announced to be read at the Manchester meeting of the Library Association, on September 5th-7th, is taken from the *Manchester Guardian* :—

“Edwards and Ewart and the Select Committee on Public Libraries of 1849,” by Mr. J. J. Ogle, of the Bootle Public Library; “An Attempt to Solve the School Libraries Problem,” by the Rev. W. E. Winks, of Cardiff; “The De Quincey Collection at the Moss Side Public Library,” by Mr. W. E. A. Axon; “Special Collections of Books in Lancashire and Cheshire,” by Mr. C. W. Sutton; “Salford’s Position in the Early Stages of the Public Libraries Movement,” by Mr. Benjamin H. Mullen; “The Provision of Technical Books to Public Libraries out of the Technical Education Grant,” by Mr. Alfred Lancaster, of St. Helens; “Librarian and Reader,” by Mr. J. Ernest Phythian; “Colonies in Relation to Public Libraries,” by Mr. J. R. Boosé, Secretary of the Royal Colonial Institute; “Books for the Reference Library,” by Mr. E. M. Borrajo, of the Guildhall Library, London; “The Ward Club-room,” by Sir W. H. Bailey; “The Influence of Free Libraries on Civic Life,” by Mr. Henry Plummer, Deputy Chairman of the Manchester Public Libraries Committee; “The Concilium Bibliographicum at Zurich,” by Mr. W. E. Hoyle and Miss Nordlinger; “Notes on the Interaction of Minute Shelf Classification with other parts of Library Administration,” by T. W. Lyster, Librarian of the National Library of Ireland; “The Philosophical Classification of Literature and its Influence on Practical Schemes of Classification,” by Mr. Archibald Clarke; “Village Libraries and County Councils,” by Mr. W. R. Credland; “Public Records and Public Libraries,” by Mr. Ernest Axon; “Naval and Military Libraries,” by Benjamin Carter. Papers will also be presented on “The History of the Free Library Movement in Manchester,” by Mr. W. R. Credland; on “The Chetham Library,” by Mr. Albert Nicholson; and on “The Library of Owens College,” by Mr. W. E. Rhodes, Librarian of that Library.

The chief point about this programme is its resemblance to the proceedings of the meetings of ten or twelve years ago, when the bibliographical and historical elements were allowed to swamp the practical side of librarianship almost completely.

The Papers ought to be supplemented by an Exhibition of Library Appliances which is generally the most interesting feature of these meetings. An Exhibition of this sort is usually a kind of rallying point for librarians, where they can see novelties, and explain, with advantage, points in their own methods, and it is the more to be desired when the discussions are unpractical, as in the present case. An Exhibition should form a feature in the arrangements of every Library Meeting, and we hope the Library Association will follow the practice of the American Association by having one every year.



SONGS OF THE PSEUDONYMS.

I.—SONG FOR A PARTICULAR OCCASION.

THE following chant is submitted to the attention of librarians in search of a substitute for the ten-minute graces usually recited at dinners and other social meetings. The words were written by one Robert Burns, a "Scottish Bard" who was "proud of the name," in a generation when ballad makers and minor poets were little esteemed. He died in the latter part of the 18th century, from the effects of a national pestilence called *aqua vitæ*, which still claims victims, not only in Scotland, but even within the sacred precincts of the Library Association itself. The music is by another departed librarian called Whipper-Snapper, who based his air on an ancient Highland melody attributed to MacAaroni, who was supposed to be hereditary piper to Ossian and other contemporaries of Moses.

It may be noted that the accent can easily be assumed by any Outlander or Non-Scoto-Briton who takes the trouble to absorb his "Scotch" in its pure state.

GRACE BEFORE MEAT.

Grave. To be sung before or with Spirits.

Some hae meat and can-na eat, And some wad eat that want it:

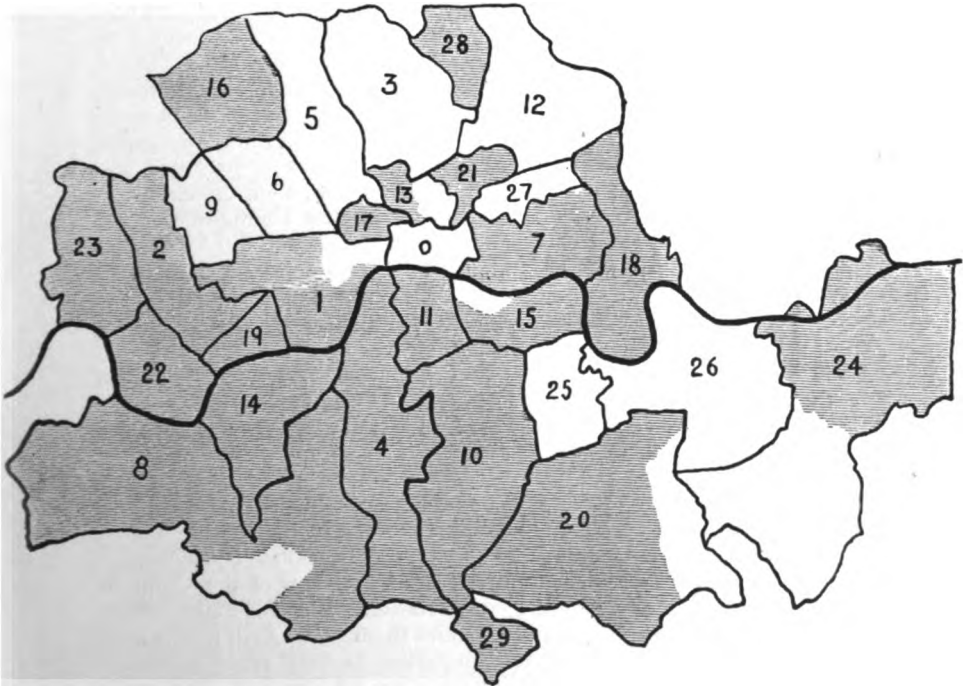
But we hae meat and we can eat, Sae let the Lord be thank - it.



THE LONDON BOROUGHS AND THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

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IN accordance with our promise, we have collected a few notes concerning the new boroughs to be formed next year out of the existing London parishes, which will perhaps be found useful by those who have written to us for information. The Commissioners under the Act will, we are informed, commence their local enquiries in October, and the particulars given in the accompanying table and map will enable provincial librarians to follow the course of the inquest with comparative ease. The map shows in a rough manner the position of the library movement in London at the present moment, the shaded



Plan of the New London Boroughs, showing those which have Public Libraries.

The shaded portions represent the areas provided with Libraries.

The numbers refer to the Table printed on page 87. "O" stands for the City.

portion representing boroughs or parts of boroughs which have provided libraries, the unshaded areas representing boroughs or old parishes which have not yet adopted the Acts. We do not propose to consider the working of the London Government Act, save as regards its effect upon public libraries. At present 39 parishes or districts (including Penge, South Hornsey, and St. Paul's, Covent Garden) have adopted the Acts, and of these thirty-four have established libraries and appointed librarians. As the new Act establishes twenty-eight boroughs (excluding Penge and the City), and some of these contain several of the old areas which already have libraries, it follows that the Library Authorities will have to be considerably reduced. Our tables show this at a glance. Instead of thirty-nine Library Authorities, there will only be twenty required; consequently some great changes may be expected. It appears from the Act (Sections 16 [d] and 29 [4]) that the settlement of the provisions affecting libraries and the transference of officers will form part of the scheme to be prepared by the Commissioners. Thus it is possible that a scheme may determine whether or not the libraries are to be extended over the whole of a borough only partially provided, and how many responsible officers are to be appointed in each department. It does not follow that the Commissioners will appoint any officer, but it appears that they must fix the number of officers, leaving the Borough Councils to make appointments and settle compensation. Numerous guesses have been made as to what will happen to the libraries. Some are of opinion that the existing arrangements will not be disturbed, and that the libraries will be carried on by their present staff, directed by a district sub-committee, responsible to the Library Committee of the Council. Others think that all officers will be treated alike, and that one responsible head will be appointed for each department, as in all municipal boroughs, the others to be compensated as provided by the Act. Should this latter plan be adopted, the number of public librarians in London will be reduced from thirty-four to twenty, and thus at least fourteen librarians will have to face the somewhat serious position of loss of office. The compensation will, to some extent, no doubt, remedy the evil, but even a liberal provision of this kind will scarcely be a salve for the absolute loss of a congenial occupation. Of course, it has to be remembered that most of the Vestry Clerks, for certain, and, in all likelihood, many of the Medical Officers and Surveyors in affected boroughs, will be similarly dealt with, so that a vast amount of disturbance among London municipal officers will be one of the immediate consequences of the Act. It is not for us to forecast the decisions of the Commissioners: these will be for future consideration. But it is quite evident that they have a very difficult task before them. We shall report from time to time the progress of the enquiries, as very great interest is being manifested in the impending changes by librarians in London and all over the country.

TABLE SHOWING LIBRARIES IN THE NEW LONDON BOROUGHES.

Note: The Rateable Value is only an approximation in most cases.

Borough.	Population.	Rateable Value.	Acts Adopted.	Librarian.
1 Westminster	193,465	£4,977,000		
St. George, HanoverSq.			1890	Frank Pacy
St. James			1856	H. E. Poole
St. Margaret				
St. Martin-in- the-Fields, also				
St. Paul, Covent Garden			1887	Thos. Mason
Strand				
2 Kensington	170,465	2,128,090	1887	H. Jones.
3 Islington	336,764	1,816,000		
4 Lambeth	295,033	1,712,000	1886	F. J. Burgoyne
5 St. Pancras	240,764	1,672,000		
6 Marylebone	141,188	1,608,000		
7 Stepney or Whitechapel	294,628	1,348,000		
Mile End			1896	—
Limehouse			1898	—
St. George-in-the-East			1896	F. M. Roberts
Whitechapel			1889	A. Cawthorne
8 Wandsworth	187,264	1,333,000		
Clapham			1887	J. R. Welch
Putney			1887	C. F. Tweney
Streatham			1889	T. Everatt
Tooting				
Wandsworth			1883	C. T. Davis.
9 Paddington	124,506	1,332,000		
10 Camberwell	253,076	1,193,000	1889	E. Foskett
11 Newington or Southwark	206,278	1,158,000		
Christchurch			1888	R. Austin
Newington			1890	R. Mould
St. George-the-Martyr			1896	T. Aldred
St. Saviour			1891	H. D. Roberts
12 Hackney	246,529	1,100,000		
13 Finsbury	109,961	908,000		
Charterhouse			1891*	—
Clerkenwell			1887	J. D. Brown
Glasshouse Yard			1891*	—
St. Luke				—
St. Sepulchre			1891*	—
14 Battersea	165,115	906,000	1887	L. Inkster
15 Bermondsey	137,585	864,000		

* As part of Holborn District.

Borough.	Population.	Rateable Value.	Acts Adopted.	Librarian.
Bermondsey			1887	J. Frowde
Rotherhithe			1887	Leonard Hobbs
St. Olave				
16 Hampstead	75,449	851,000	1893	W. E. Doubleday
17 Holborn	69,510	836,000		
Holborn			1891	H. Hawkes
St. Giles			1891	W. A. Taylor
18 Poplar	169,267	746,000		
Bow			1896	?
Bromley			1891	W. Pool
Poplar			1890	H. Rowlatt
19 Chelsea†	96,646	744,000	1887	J. H. Quinn
20 Lewisham	99,962	732,000		
Lewisham			1890	J. Hale
Lee				
21 Shoreditch	122,358	708,000	1891	W. C. Plant
22 Fulham	113,781	639,000	1887	F. Barrett
23 Hammersmith	104,199	610,000	1887	S. Martin
24 Woolwich	120,000	558,000	1898	
Eltham				
Plumstead			1898	
Woolwich			1895	
25 Deptford	107,273	549,000		
26 Greenwich	84,429	517,000		
Charlton				
Greenwich				
Kidbrook				
St. Nicholas				
27 Bethnal Green	130,000	457,000		
28 Stoke Newington	50,377	319,000		
South Hornsey			1898	E. Gunthorpe
Stoke Newington			1890	G. Preece
29 Penge‡	21,308	154,000	1891	S. J. Clarke

† Chelsea detached, Kensal Town, has a Rateable Value of £72,000. It will probably be added to Kensington or Paddington.

‡ Note: Left for settlement by Commissioners.



LORD LLANGATTOCK has offered, as a gift to the **Camberwell** Vestry, the site for a Public Library for St. George's Wards, which comprise the very poorest portions of the parish. Up to the present the densely populated district between Camberwell Road and the Old Kent Road has only had a small temporary Public Library in Neate Street. Arrangements have been made for a new library building to occupy the site thus generously presented.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

By WILLIAM J. WILLCOCK, *Librarian, Public Library, Peterborough.*

o o o

ONE of the objections to the Public Lending Library, other than the eternal fiction question, is the doubtful one of books acting as disseminators of germs of infection. Yet the people who believe that the books issued from a public library have, in addition to their tendency towards intellectual improvement, the power of spreading infection, are those who are quite unaware that they run as much risk of infection by travelling in railway carriages, 'buses, and hired cabs as they do by taking advantage of the benefits afforded to them by the public library.

Many library authorities do not consider the question to be a very serious one, but, rather than endanger the popularity of the public library, schemes have been formulated by which the risk of infection is reduced to a minimum.

By the passing of the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act in 1889, authority was given to local authorities to become acquainted with every case of infectious disease within their district. (See Act. Div., 3, Sec. 1 [b].) Here, then, was the authority which the library authority could exercise to allay the fears of that portion of the public which entertained the above-mentioned objection.

For those library authorities who have not yet dealt with the question, the procedure would be as follows. Providing the local authority has adopted the Act steps should be taken to get the notification extended, through the Medical Officer, to the Library Authority. This having been done it is necessary to draw up the forms of notification, viz. : (1) from the Medical Officer to the Librarian; (2) from the Librarian to the borrower; (3) from the Librarian to the Medical Officer. The disposal of the books after disinfection should also be decided upon. For the efficient working of the scheme, a "street index" will be required in addition to the ordinary index of borrowers' names. The use of the street index will be explained further on.

Limited space will not permit the mention in detail of more than one scheme, and that in use at the Birkenhead Public Libraries may be taken as a typical example of thoroughness and safety.

Each morning the Librarian receives from the Medical Officer a list of cases of infectious disease within the borough. The form of notification is as follows :—

Corporation of Birkenhead.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Notification to the Chief Librarian of cases of infectious disease within the Borough.

.....18.....

NAME.	ADDRESS.	DISEASE.

Space is also provided on the back of this form for a list of the houses where disinfection has been completed. On the receipt of this list the librarian has to ascertain if any borrower resides at the house where a case is reported to be. The "name index" does not, in every case, give the required information, and it is here that the value of the "street index" is appreciated. The "street index" is practically an index of the addresses of borrowers. For example the Medical Officer reports, John Jones, residing at 33, High Street, to be suffering from scarlatina. The librarian, on consulting the "name index," finds that John Jones is not a borrower, but, however, on turning in the "street index" to High Street, 33, he discovers that William Black lives there, and is also a borrower. If William Black has a book out at the time the following notice is sent to him:—

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

I have been notified by the Medical Officer of Health that there is a case of infectious disease reported to him at your address, and I have to request you to hand over to the Health Officers any book or books you have in the house from this Library instead of returning the same here.

In the meantime you will please discontinue using the Libraries, until I am notified by the Medical Officer of Health that the disinfection of the premises has been completed.

Librarian.

The librarian also sends to the Medical Officer a notice as under:—

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Free Public Libraries,

Birkenhead,.....1.....

To

The Medical Officer of Health.

Dear Sir,

Of the cases of Infectious Disease notified me, the following are places where library books are loaned, and I have instructed the borrowers to hand the book or books to your Inspectors. I shall be glad if they will take note of Title and Number (enclosed in a stamp on Title Page) of each book, and retain the works for disposal at your discretion.

Librarian.

NAME.	ADDRESS.	LIBRARY BORROWER'S NAME.

It will be observed from the above notices that the Medical Inspectors take charge of the books, and also make a note of their titles and numbers, a list of which is forwarded to the librarian. After disinfection, the books are disposed of as the Medical Officer thinks fit. Only those from houses where mild cases of disease have been may be returned to the library, the others being sent to the isolation hospital for the use of the patients. For instance, a book coming from a scarlatina case would be placed in the scarlatina ward, and so on with the other cases and wards.

This system of final disposal may be objected to on account of the cost it is likely to entail, but it is only in the case of a widespread epidemic that the annual cost would be more than nominal; in fact, under ordinary circumstances a few pounds a year would cover all the losses even in a library with a large circulation.

Although, as stated previously, the question may not be a serious one, it is the duty of every library authority to make the institution under its charge as popular as possible, and meeting such an objection in an efficient manner is undoubtedly a step in the right direction.

SUGGESTIONS FOR A LIBRARY CONFERENCE.

o o o

IT has often struck us as a remarkable circumstance that most important societies should lavish infinite care on the preparation of elaborate codes of Rules and Regulations, and leave almost entirely to chance, the conditions under which conferences are to be held. An annual meeting is, we take it, the main function in the routine of every society. Here, large questions of policy are discussed, the family linen is washed, and a kind of stock-taking is indulged in, which decides the course of future efforts. But as a rule, no Society lays down definite regulations for this important gathering, and even the general conduct of business is arranged in a haphazard way. It seems a pity that so much time and trouble should be wasted in defining for what objects the society is formed; how many minutes a member may talk; how much he must pay; what penalties he must suffer for misbehaving; how many members go to make one intelligent council; and how many votes one can have for his money; when the main purpose for which the society exists—its Annual Conference—is allowed to arrange itself as best it may. Now, *if a new Library Society ever comes to be formed*, we should be pleased to see definite Rules formulated for the conduct of its Annual Meetings, on lines somewhat akin to the following series of suggestions:—

- 1.—It must be obvious to all observers, that the majority of librarians are not debaters, although most of them are able to talk with intelligence and spirit on certain aspects of librarianship.
- 2.—It must also be admitted that general interest centres around practical questions, and not around historical or bibliographical topics which are more fitted for Sunday reading than discussion.
- 3.—Furthermore, it is quite certain that a large hall is fatal to the eloquence at the command of unpractised speakers, for the simple reason that such debaters have not only to contend against a natural shyness, but have to shout in the loud, assured voice of the case-hardened debater, in order to be heard at all.

It follows from all this that a Conference should be so arranged as to encourage the unpractised debater; to draw forth the best opinions of practical men on professional subjects of importance; and at the same time, to give full scope for the showy rhetorical side of such meetings, which usually figures most in the newspapers. Now, we have observed that at most conferences of this sort, the discussions are carried on almost entirely by a small group of persons who are able speakers, and who *will* speak, whether or not they are adepts in the special subject which happens to be under notice. They are animated by a pure zeal to “keep the pot boiling,” and save the discussion from ignominiously petering out, to the eternal disgrace of the craft. A certain affection for the sound of their own voices, but in a minor degree, of

course, also conspires to keep them on their feet, when they should be resting on another portion of their anatomy. At any rate, they are showy fellows, and a credit to the Society which owns them, for which reason we advocate the establishment of a Hall of Rhetoric, as the first requirement of our model Library Conference. This would be a veritable Temple of Eloquence, wherein all the orators of the Society could emit their volumes of compressed rhetoric ; wherein all local and historical papers could be read ; and where the ladies who attend these Conferences could meet and discuss family matters. Here also, the President would deliver himself of his Inaugural Address, and Votes of Thanks, Public Proclamations and other ornamental announcements could be made.

The practical side of the Conference would be carried on by a series of Round Table Discussions, according to a carefully prepared scheme, whereby only men of knowledge would be chosen to open the debates, and ample opportunity would be afforded diffident or young members to ask questions or contribute their ideas and opinions. The idea of these Round Table discussions would be to combine the comparative freedom of the Committee meeting with the informality of the Smoking Concert. All formal procedure would be relaxed, and the business would be conducted in a conversational manner. There should be no voting ; the fundamental idea of such meetings being the interchange of information and opinion. The Round Tables would be held in small rooms, which would be fatal to the display of oratory ; smoking might be allowed, and any young man with something to say should be permitted to speak as often as the spirit moved him. A good plan would be to have a chairman of known ability in the special subject to be discussed, and the business would be introduced by a librarian who has studied the question, and be continued by another librarian holding opposite views. Five to ten minutes each would suffice for the openers, and no discussion should continue for more than an hour on one day. It could, however, be adjourned to the following day if found very interesting. As far as possible, no two Round Table meetings would be held at one time, but they could be going on at the same time as the proceedings in the Hall of Rhetoric. This plan resembles in some respects the sectional method adopted in some large societies, but differs from them in the freedom allowed, and in the opportunities afforded modest debaters of taking part in the proceedings. With this separation of the practical from the ornamental, a programme could be arranged in such a way, that every year the whole field of library work could be in part reviewed from different standpoints. The Council or other controlling body would draw up a general scheme of subjects for the Round Tables, and every year invite new men to open discussions on topics of interest. This scheme of subjects would be arranged under definite heads, and some fresh subdivision of each subject could be introduced every year. In this way would be elicited and placed on record the most advanced or conservative views on every point in library administration ; every member could take part in the discussions and contribute his mite for the general good ;

immense interest in the proceedings would be created; and the benefit to the participants would be incalculable. Each Round Table would have its own recorder, whose business it would be to see that every speaker wrote down his remarks, or a recording phonograph could be used, from which the proceedings could be compiled after careful editing.

To show how this scheme could be made to work in actual practice, we append an ideal programme of such a Conference, with apologies to the gentlemen whose names are not mentioned:—

PROGRAMME OF THE.....MEETING OF THE.....
LIBRARY SOCIETY.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4th, at 10 a.m.

Main Hall. President's Address.
Business Announcements.
Local Papers.

Small Hall. 11 to 12. Round Table Discussion—Classification.
Chairman: Mr. T. W. Lyster. Recorder: Mr. J. D. Brown.
"Advantages of Exact Classification."

Openers: Mr. L. S. Jast. Mr. Frank Pacy.

Small Hall. 12 to 1. Round Table Discussion—Cataloguing.
Chairman: Mr. F. T. Barrett. Recorder: Mr. J. H. Quinn.
"Is the Dictionary Catalogue Doomed?"

Openers: Mr. Wm. May. Mr. W. E. Doubleday.

Small Hall. 2.30 to 3.30. Round Table Discussion—Buildings.
Chairman: Dr. Richard Garnett. Recorder: Mr. F. J. Burgoyne.
"Is Staff Supervision of Public Rooms absolutely indispensable?"

Openers: Mr. Peter Cowell. Mr. C. W. Sutton.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5th, at 10 a.m.

Main Hall. Business Announcements.
Local Papers.

Small Hall. 10.30 to 11.30. Round Table Discussion—Staff.
Chairman: Mr. A. C. Shaw. Recorder: Mr. E. M. Borrajo.
"Duties and Qualifications of a Librarian."

Openers:—Mr. Charles Welch. Mr. Hew Morrison.

Small Hall. 11.30 to 12.30. Round Table Discussion—Book Selection and Accession.
Chairman: Mr. H. R. Tedder. Recorder: Mr. R. K. Dent.
"On Weeding-out Obsolete Stock."

Openers: Mr. A. W. Robertson, M.A. Mr. A. W. Pollard.

Small Hall. 2 to 3. Round Table Discussion—Foundation and Committees.
Chairman: Mr. J. W. Southern. Recorder: Mr. H. W. Fovargue.
"The Function of the Library Committee."

Openers: Mr. G. L. Campbell. Sir W. H. Bailey.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th, at 10 a.m.

Main Hall. Annual Business Meeting of the Society.
Business Announcements.
Local Papers.

Small Hall. 11 to 12. Round Table Discussion—Public Service.
Chairman: Mr. H. Rawson. Recorder: Mr. F. Campbell.

"Admission of Readers to the Shelves."

Openers: Mr. G. K. Fortesque. Mr. H. Jones.

Small Hall. 12 to 1. Round Table Discussion—Routine Work.
 Chairman: Mr. Butler Wood. Recorder: Mr. T. Mason.
 "Library Book-Binding."

Openers: Mr. Tweed Jewers. Mr. C. Davenport.

Small Hall. 2.30 to 3.30. Round Table Discussion—Special Features.
 Chairman: The Earl of Crawford. Recorder: Mr. J. P. Edmond.
 "Vexations of Library Journalism."

Openers: Mr. J. Y. W. MacAlister. Mr. Henry Guppy.

There is plenty of time left for picnics in this programme, while, by retaining the Round Table Discussions of the main divisions of library work, an enormous variety of topics and speakers could be introduced in the course of a very few years. This scheme is earnestly recommended to the notice of librarians in the hope that it may elicit some opinions as to the methods of conducting Conferences on Library Work.

J.B.L.S.



THE LIBRARY STAFF.

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THIS DEPARTMENT is conducted for the special, but not exclusive, benefit of the earnest and studious Library Assistant, who is determined to make his or her way in the profession of Librarianship. An effort will be made to cover in a gradual and complete manner, the whole of the ground occupied by the technical side of the craft, and to enable this to be thoroughly done, brief practical notes of any kind are solicited from assistants or librarians in any sort of library. Ethical disquisitions on deportment and disagreeable controversial notes are not wanted. Every assistant should make a point of sending at least one note annually bearing on the daily routine work of a library. Nothing is too trivial or trite to be thoroughly discussed.

EDITED BY A LANCASHIRE LIBRARIAN.

Hobbies for Library Assistants.

BY
H. G. T. CANNONS.

IN these days of specialism there is grave danger lest we should be absorbed by a single duty, and who more so than the Library Assistant?

We all need variation in our daily work, and for our perfect content must not allow our thoughts to run in one groove.

An assistant who permits himself to be entirely taken up by his professional work may become more successful than his brother who varies his occupation, but his faculties, in consequence, suffer a serious limitation.

It is now generally agreed that a library assistant, often overworked and poorly paid, requires outdoor recreation of some kind. My professional brothers, after reading the following, may consider that I have too many hobbies, but at this risk will endeavour to describe a few of them.

During the summer months the greater part of my leisure is devoted to gardening. It is in a very modest way, but I would suggest that any assistant who has the power to cultivate this pleasant hobby should do so. The amount of physical labour required to keep a garden in good condition will be found sufficient to maintain fair bodily health. The late Harold Frederic, speaking of his cultivation of plants, wrote:—"There is something quite mysterious about plants—especially if you have grown them yourself. You can go and stand among them by the hour, and look from one to the other, with your mind entirely closed to thoughts of any description."

To those who are unable to take up gardening there is cycling. What exhilarating pleasure it is to be able to get on your machine and ride right away into the country, and forget, for the time being, your professional duties and worries; as I suppose we get our share of worry as well as our chiefs, even though it may be in a lesser degree.

For those who do not care to expend so much muscular power I would advise them to go in for collecting bookplates, stamps, monograms, crests, or even better, library catalogues. The writer of this has made it a point of procuring a copy of the catalogue of every library visited, and by this and other means now possesses a collection of upwards of one hundred specimens, and, needless to say, he has found them of very great service to him.

My philatelic collection was started some ten years back, and now contains about two thousand specimens. I would not part with it for a good round sum.

I am now engaged in collecting and mounting photographs of authors. This idea originated with the souvenir presented to the students of the Summer School, upon the occasion of their visit to Messrs. Cassell's publishing house some three or four years back. My collection now numbers over four hundred portraits, and it is my intention during the coming winter to add biographical particulars to each specimen.

In conclusion, I wish to say that it has been my aim in writing these few lines to show the library assistant that relief from the monotony of his daily duties, from worry and care, is best found by means of such hobbies as I have named, and by their cultivation he will undoubtedly be the gainer.

Qualifications of a Librarian
BY MELVIL DEWEY. THE following list of qualifications is taken from one of the publications of the Library School of the University of the State of New York. It is a classification of the American ideal qualifications, and may with advantage be studied by the librarian who imagines himself thoroughly well equipped with the mere possession of office.

A As a man. Character

1. Fibre
2. Spirit of work.
 - a* Aspiration for excellence, for higher things, ambition
 - b* Courage (active); fortitude (passive)
 - c* Enthusiasm; love; zeal
 - d* Energy; force
 - e* Patient persistence; steadfast purpose
 - f* Faith
3. Plane of work
 - a* Physical
 - b* Mental. Intellectual ambition
 - c* Moral. Altruism; missionary spirit; highest good of others
4. Social qualities
 - a* Personal appearance; presentableness; dress; neatness
 - b* Good habits
 - c* Ease
 - d* Tact
5. Physical qualities
 - a* Health; endurance; trained powers
6. Mental qualities
 - a* Orderly habit
 - b* Memory
 - c* Accuracy
 - d* Speed; dispatch; prompt decision
 - e* Executive ability; power to organize and delegate work, to marshal and use four m's which produce results; *i. e.*, materials, machinery, methods, men

B As a scholar

7. Education. All powers disciplined and ready for use with precision, force and speed
8. Languages. Chief tools for work

<i>a</i> German	}	Most used; with English, a good equipment
<i>b</i> French		

 - c* Latin. Less used; valuable as introduction to French, Italian, Spanish
 - d* Italian and Spanish
 - e* Scandinavian and Russian. Trifling use except in rare libraries.
9. Knowledge
 - a* Sociology. 18th century theological, 19th scientific, 20th sociologic
 - b* History
 - c* Literature
 - d* Useful arts

C As a bibliographer

10. Knowledge of books physically (outside)
 - a* Book maker's work
 - (1) Paper. Colour, thickness, durability
 - (2) Printing. Size and face of type, leading, spacing, length of line, margins, ink, press work
 Binding. Materials, methods, cost, durability
 - b* Editor's work
 Editions. Publishers, prices, comparative merits and faults of paper, printing and binding, contents, indexes, foot notes, proof-reading
 - c* Author's work
 - d* Bibliographer's work

D As library economist

11. Knowledge of library systems
 - a* Scope and founding of libraries
 - b* Legislation, local, state, national
 - c* How to raise money
 - d* Connection with schools
 - e* Reading of the young, children's libraries
 - f* Buildings and equipment
 - g* Library assistants
 - h* Salaries, etc.
 - i* Accession department (all methods of getting books)
 - j* Preservation of books
 - k* Use of books, for reference and in lending. Get, keep, use—the greatest of these is use
 - l* Cataloguing and classification
12. Library experience. For best results, must combine knowledge and experience (like quantity and quality or speed and accuracy)
13. Knowledge and experience:
 - a*, in business principles and methods
 - b*, of the world at large (travel)
 - c*, in special accomplishments; mechanical ability. Value not intrinsic, but for convenience in trifling needs
 - (1) Book repairing
 - (2) Book gilding
 - (3) Handwriting, lettering
 - (4) Shorthand
 - (5) Typewriting
 - (6) Duplicating processes

Library		LIBRARIAN AND STAFF.	
Methodology.		D	
2	Librarian : Advertisements	32	Staff : Superannuation
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18	Staff : Application forms for posts	48	Sub-Librarian
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24	Duties	54	Caretakers
26	Library Training	56	Cleaners
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**Book
Dusting.**

ON the ground that "nothing is too trivial or trite to be thoroughly discussed" in your column, I venture to offer the following observations on "The dusting of books." Now that Mr. J. J. Harvey has given to librarianship his patent dusting machine there is certainly little reason why books and shelves should not be presentable. The method in use in the library where I am has been found very advantageous. Two assistants go over the whole of the stock periodically, about every two months, and carefully remove the dust from off each book. After this the books are straightened on the shelves, and the book-rests placed on those which are not fully occupied. This keeps them in an upright position, and prevents them from assuming the false shape, which those that are not greatly in demand will do, if they are allowed to remain in a half-lying, half-standing position on the shelves. At the same time tag-labelling, and the brightening of the backs of the books with a duster may be gone through. The reward of this is the well-deserved praise of strangers who may visit the library, apart from the pleasure it affords the staff to behold the books in this orderly condition. The assistants, of course, must take a pride in their work, and show a high development of the "bump of order," if things are to remain in this condition.



LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS.

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At a recent meeting of the **Liverpool** Public Library Committee, a resolution was moved and carried: "That it be recommended that there be included in the next application to Parliament powers to amend the Liverpool Library and Museum Act, 1852, so as to enable the Council to levy a Library Rate not exceeding 1½d. in the £, and to provide that any money borrowed under the powers of that Act shall be repaid within a period of forty years."

THE Public Libraries' (Ireland) Act has been adopted by the Urban District Council of **Bray**.

THE Free Library Committee of **Keighley** Corporation have decided to recommend the Council to put the Free Library Acts into operation in the borough. Sites for the new library have been under consideration, and a conference between the committee and the special committee of Keighley Institute will probably take place shortly.

THE foundation-stone of the National Memorial to Mr. Gladstone, at **St. Deiniol's, Hawarden**, is to be laid on October 5th, by the Duke of Westminster. The site is in the field to the south of the present corrugated-iron building, which contains the collection of books to be placed in the new building, and to the south-west of the hostel, which is eventually to be rebuilt and joined to the library.

THE **Levenshulme** Urban District Council has appointed a special committee to report on the advisability of adopting the Public Libraries' Act.

ON August 2nd a man was charged at the **Cork** Police Court with the larceny of half a sheet of the *Cork Herald* of the previous day's issue. The presiding magistrate said that it was apparently useless to impose a fine in such cases, and he therefore ordered the prisoner to be imprisoned for seven days without the option of a fine.

THE Delegates of the Clarendon Press have presented to the **Arbroath** Public Library books (in sheets) to the value of £25.

MR. **W. E. Owen**, of the Central Free Library, Cardiff, has been appointed second assistant in the Secretary's Office and Library of the Leeds Institute of Science, Art, and Literature.

THE **Leeds** Institute of Science, Art, and Literature has just issued its annual "Syllabus," a formidable document of 117 pages, profusely illustrated, and giving full particulars of the Classes and Courses of Study carried on in connection with the Institute. From a smaller and well illustrated syllabus we gather that the library now contains 25,000 volumes. Mr. Arthur Tait is the Secretary.

THE Programme for the Session 1899-1900 of the "**Wolverhampton** Free Library and Higher Grade Board School Science, Commercial, and other Classes" has just been published. It shows a wonderful range of studies, and illustrates a phase of library work which is largely on the increase.

THE Ninth Annual Report of the **Stoke Newington** Public Library Commissioners for 1898-99 records a stock of 12,921 volumes, and an issue of 100,848 volumes. Steps are being taken to secure some adjoining land for extension purposes. Mr. George Preece is the Librarian.

THE authorities of **Carlisle** Public Library and Museum have issued a useful illustrated "Guide to Tullie House," written by Chancellor Ferguson, M.A., F.S.A., etc. The syllabus of classes for 1899-1900 has also been issued and gives particulars of the Science and Art Classes conducted. Mr. Archibald Sparke, Librarian, is also Secretary of the School of Science and Art.

MR. J. ROCH, late assistant at Halton Road Board School, Barry Dock, has been appointed librarian of the **Barry** Public Library. He is Secretary of the Barry Liberal Association.

THE **Clerkenwell** Vestry has resolved to adopt the electric light for the Public Library, and a tender has been accepted for carrying out the work.

AUTHORS often receive recognition of their work in very curious and varied forms, but sometimes these recognitions come to a writer in a very pleasant fashion, as did a little surprise that we hear awaited Mr. **James Baker** on his return home from the Library Conference. One of his readers in Austria is the Countess of Wallenstein (the descendant of the famous Wallenstein), and Her Excellency forwarded to the author, who has written so much on Bohemia, a most delicately mounted note block, with a water colour sketch of the Castle and Chapel of Bosig, in which occurred the awful walling-up scene in the novel "The Gleaming Dawn." The sketch was set round with brilliant Bohemian garnets, and a very fine garnet was also set in the pen and pencil accompanying the note block. By the way, we omitted to mention the important book, "The Forgotten Great Englishman," that places a famous Englishman back in English history after a neglect of five hundred years. This was a discovery made whilst the author was writing his "Pictures of Bohemia. He is now working upon a Blue Book for the Educational Department, a report of his tour through Prussia, Poland, Galicia, Silesia, Bohemia and Saxony, to study the Technical and Commercial Schools, a work which falls in with his "Our Foreign Competitors," a little book that is used as a text book in the Belgian Commercial University, and that was the pioneer of the "Made in Germany" literature, being articles written from 1886 to 1892.

WE understand that the first number of the new series of *The Library*, edited by Mr. **J. Y. W. MacAlister**, will appear in October, in a very handsome and imposing form. Mr. MacAlister has secured the co-operation of some of the leading British, American and Continental librarians and bibliographers, and many articles of importance will appear in the first number. We believe the magazine is printed at the Chiswick Press, and that Messrs. Kegan, Paul & Co., Ltd., are to be the publishers.

THE number of volumes issued during 1898-99 from the **York** Public Library was 134,483. The stock consists of 19,960 volumes, of which 5,266 are for reference.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS.

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THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION AT MANCHESTER.

THE prevailing tones of the Manchester meeting were dullness and depression, caused largely by climatic conditions and a thoroughly uninteresting programme of papers. Not for years has the Council submitted for consideration such an array of deadly dull, undiscussable subjects, and the question arises as to the need for summoning busy librarians to conferences at which there is little or nothing worth conferring about. No blame can attach to the hospitable people of Manchester, who did their best to drown the awful noise of their streets in the depths of an illimitable champagne cup. No one who was present is likely to forget the reception at the Town Hall, the splendid night at Salford, or the reviving trip to Chester; and if some would fain forget that wonderful visit to the Ship Canal, its savours will long linger in the inner recesses of the olfactory nerve as a pungent memory. Nor will those who visited the magnificent series of public libraries, and educational centres like the quaint old Chetham Hospital, Owens' College, and other institutions, be likely to think of Manchester as a mere hive of industry, blind to culture in all its higher aspects. On the contrary, everyone must have been impressed by the devotion to literature and art manifested on every side.

The two principal incidents which added a little humour and excitement to the proceedings, were the smoking concert given by the Manchester Literary Club (at which the hosts outnumbered the guests in the proportion of two to one), and a division upon a side aspect of the great "open door" question. The concert was a most enjoyable entertainment; and the division presented members with the spectacle of a Council being snubbed at its own deliberate invitation. Over a clause in the Annual Report, inviting the North Western Branch to reconsider "the determination which excludes from its classes those not actually engaged in library work," the snub came in the form of a brickbat, which left the Council minus several teeth, like the man in the Lancashire story. These will no doubt be converted into umbrella handles by the Library Assistants' Association, or used for the decoration of the wigwam mantelpiece. The Council would have been better advised to "moind its own bizness," and not interfere with local organizations. At any rate it should not have courted an amendment to omit the recommendation to the North Western Branch, which was carried by a sufficient majority. The rest of the business meeting was tame in comparison.

There is very little to record about the papers. We have already published a list of them, and need only notice a few which elicited discussion. So many were purely historical or local that discussion on them was well-nigh impossible. The President's address was a very complete survey of the progress of the library movement, both in Manchester and throughout the country. His reference to the table, published in the *Library World* of last February, we take as a pleasing compliment. The threadbare topic of "School Libraries" brought forth the usual stream of variations on a hackneyed theme, and the only feature of the discussion which relieved it from positive boredom, was the undoubted earnestness of all the speakers. "The Provision of Technical Books," another well-worn theme, was handled by Mr. Lancaster of St. Helen's, but nothing novel or suggestive resulted from the discussion. "Books for the Reference Library," a paper on lines suggested in the *Library*, several years ago, and actually applied every month in the pages of the *Library World*, was an interesting contribution by Mr. Borrajo, of the Guildhall Library, which did not receive the attention it deserved. Similar inadequate treatment was measured out to a paper by Mr. Lyster, of Dublin, on "The Theory and Practice of Shelf-Classification," which was a very thoughtful and suggestive record of experiences, in a subject which English librarians shun with most painful unanimity. An animated discussion arose on Sir W. H. Bailey's paper on "Ward Club Rooms," and some attention was bestowed on Mr. Credland's paper on "Village Libraries and County Councils." Apart from these the discussions were unfruitful or conspicuous by their absence. The only other outstanding features of the meeting were the Annual Dinner and presentation to Dr. Richard Garnett, and the barricading of the Rylands Library. This latter event came as a disappointment to many, but after all, it is questionable if an institution surrounded by so many jealous safeguards is worth the attention of librarians accustomed to more liberal methods. There are other Bibliographical Museums in existence, where costly, and more or less useless, books are carefully preserved in glass cases to prevent people from reading them, even if they could, so that, "happen," as the Lancastrians say Mrs. Rylands has lost more in intelligent appreciation of her efforts, than librarians have lost in knowledge. In connection with the opening of this Library in October, we were informed that invitations had been issued to a *selection* of members of Council of the Library Association. These invitations carry with them all travelling and other expenses. The Councillors are not personal friends of Mrs. Rylands, but were, we take it, invited solely as official representatives of librarianship. Why, then, should certain members be invited and others excluded, when they all belong to the same organisation, and represent practically the same degree of attainment?

Next time the Library Association goes to Manchester, we fervently trust the City Council will have taken a leaf out of the Library Committee's book, and bestowed as much care in silencing the streets, as the Committee has done in deadening the Library floors.

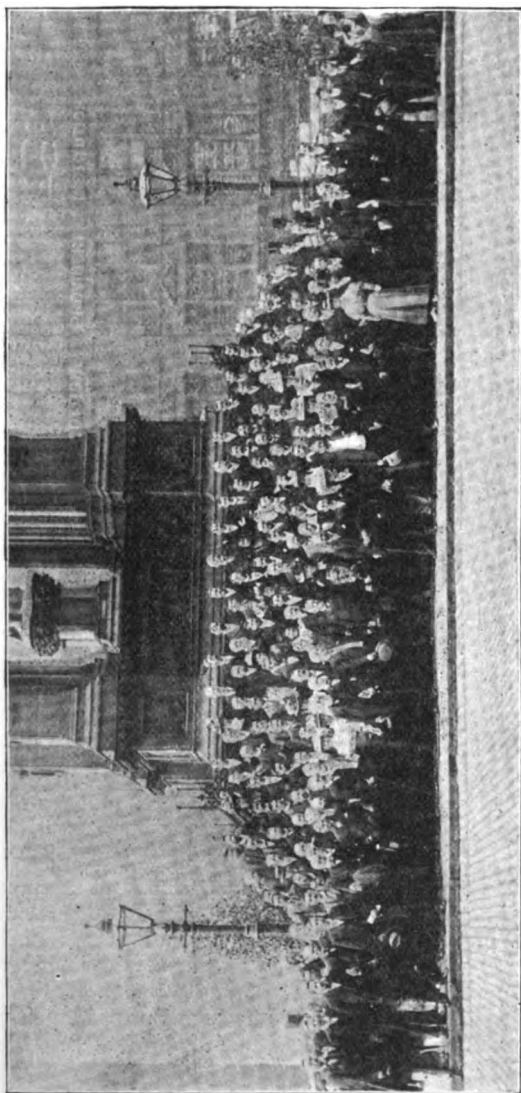


Photo by Mr. Fred. Turner, Brentford.

MEMBERS OF THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE. HELD AT MANCHESTER, SEPTEMBER, 1899.

CONFERENCE CHIPS.

By ANOTHER HAND.

THE Twenty-second Conference of the L. A. has come and gone, and the general verdict of those who took part, is that it may be regarded as a fair average meeting. The papers were by no means brilliant, and were chiefly upon worn-out topics. The discussions were good, the speaking being better than usual. The Reception Committee and Mr. Sutton did their work well, and the entertainments and visits were pleasant and interesting.

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THE preliminary reception by the Mayor and Corporation of Manchester gave many of the members an opportunity of seeing, for the first time, the magnificent Town Hall under most favourable circumstances. A plethora of entertainment was provided. The Police Band discoursed sweet music with a vim which did credit to their lungs, and prevented many from examining the frescoes of Ford Madox Brown adorning the walls of the large hall. Those who "braved the blast" were amused to find, in Panel No. 7, "Crabtree watching the Transit of Venus," a portrait of the Lambeth Librarian. Clearly a case of *Post hoc, propter hoc*.

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THERE were many topics of conversation. Surprise and sorrow were expressed by many at the position of Mr. W. H. K. Wright, as shown in the election result, printed in our last number. Some who were present at the Manchester Conference of 1879 sadly recalled the names of those present at that meeting who have since joined the great majority, amongst them being Robert Harrison, William Archer, William Blades, Henry Bradshaw, Henry Stevens, and W. H. Overall. Other familiar faces at former Conferences which were missed this year were those of Chancellor Christie, T. G. Law, Canon Hudson, J. Gilburt, Frank Campbell, W. R. Douthwaite, J. Y. W. MacAlister, and J. D. Mullins.

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THE opening meeting was held in the Town Hall, and the presidential address of Alderman Southern was a clear business-like review of the progress of the Public Library movement, both in Manchester and the United Kingdom. Notable in it was the reception given to his mention of the name of Alderman Harry Rawson. It was evident that our late president had won, not only the respect, but the affection and esteem of the members.

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THAT hardy perennial, "School Libraries," was discoursed upon by Mr. Winks, of Cardiff, in an airy fashion, to be expected perhaps from a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society. The rock upon which this and many other good suggestions is wrecked, is the "eternal lack of pence." So long as the Library Rate is limited to 1d. it is im-

possible for many promising fields of influence to be worked. This view of the matter was fully brought out in the discussion which followed.

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A MANCHESTER Councillor, Mr. Phythian, read a good paper upon the "Librarian and the Reader." It was somewhat sharply criticised by Mr. Doubleday and others, but supported by that genial and explosive son of Erin, Mr. Brownell, of Kingstown.

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THE discussion on Mr. Mullen's "History of the Salford Library," produced a triangular duel, in which the claims of Salford, Warrington, and Bristol to have founded the first free library were advanced. It gave Sir William Bailey an opportunity to declare that "Salford was a sacred city, and in future years would be the Mecca of all pious librarians."

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MR. BORRAJO'S paper raised an interesting discussion on the expert and his ways. It was pointed out he was often a "crank," his chief failing being an utter lack of the sense of proportion. In his eyes there is no subject worth consideration, excepting that in which he is interested, and, consequently, great caution must be shown in dealing with his suggestions. The paper was of a most practical character, and the result of the discussion was to remit Mr. Borrajo's suggestions to the Council for further consideration.

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ON Tuesday night the Salford Corporation gave a reception in the Museum and Library, Peel Park. Notable features were the organ recitals of Mr. Sharples, and a smoke room, lavishly furnished, in the New Technical Institute. This was evidently provided as a sample of what the "Ward Club Room," (upon which Sir William Bailey was to read a paper next day) could be developed into under favourable circumstances. The worthy knight was at his best in the autobiographical asides, with which his paper sparkled. He told with glee how he was the child of a Puritan father, who would not allow a pack of cards in his house, but allowed dominoes to be played on wet Sunday afternoons. Dr. Garnett somewhat mischievously suggested that Sir William's father was rusty in his latinity, and thought dominoes was derived from the Latin *Dominus!*

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ON Wednesday afternoon a trip was taken on the Ship Canal, which was not found to be so strong in odour as our Liverpool friends averred it would be. Sir E. Leader Williams, the engineer of the canal accompanied the party, and explained the chief features of interest in a particularly racy manner. His description of a water-tight joint made out of the heads of several engineers was not at all bad for a canal manager. Omnibuses were taken from Barton Lock to Trafford Hall, where tea was partaken at the kindly invitation of Lady Bailey.

At night the Manchester Literary Club gave a smoking concert. This was perhaps the most enjoyable of all the proceedings. The songs of Messrs. Dumville and Ditchburn; the dialect and other recitals of Messrs. Dronsfield, Allen, and Roe; Mr. Hill's rendering of "Three Blind Mice," on the piano; and Mr. Redfern's quaint verses upon the L.A., in which he hit off the personal peculiarities of many of the members—were all of them of the very best.

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IN the absence of most of the usual critics, the business meeting was expected to go through without much discussion, but a paragraph in the Council's report, relating to the admission of "Outlanders" to the classes, proved a veritable fly in the ointment. A motion was made that it be deleted, and, amidst much excitement, a vote was taken in parliamentary style, tellers being appointed and the "Ayes" and "Noes" leaving the room at different doors. The result of the vote was that the offending sentence was struck out. This was largely due to an injudicious harangue of the hon. secretary, who declared that if the policy of exclusion was carried out he should resign his office. Such a declaration was felt by many to be a threat, and led to several adverse votes being given by members who held no strong opinion either way.

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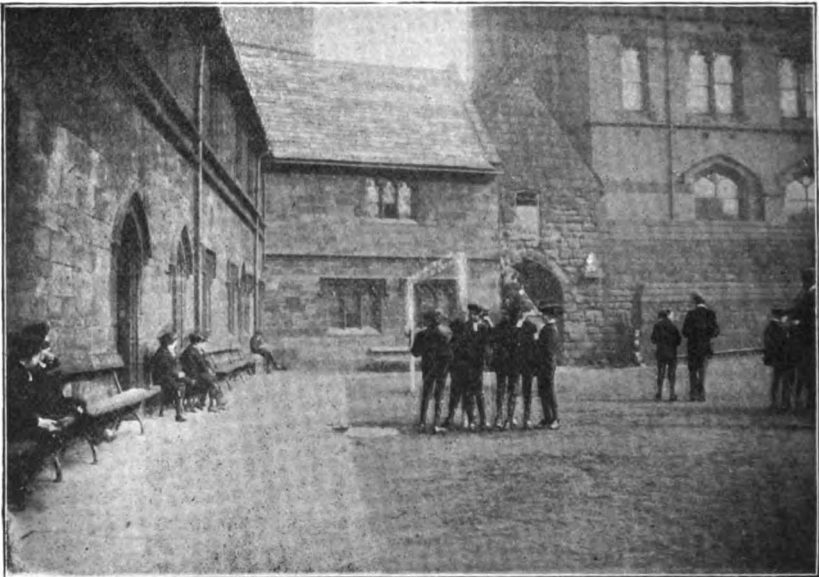


Photo by Mr. H. W. Fincham.

THE PLAYGROUND OF THE CHETHAM COLLEGE AND LIBRARY, MANCHESTER.

VISITS were made on Thursday afternoon to Chetham's Hospital and Library, and to Owens' College. At the former the boys were very much in evidence, attired as they were in the quaint costume of the 17th century. They sung for us the "Canadian Boat Song," and afterwards gave an exhibition of football in the playground. Here Mr. Dent was prevailed upon to show them how Aston Villa played, and punted the ball in proper championship style.



ON Friday the Conference closed with a visit to Chester and Eaton Hall. The quaint old town was much admired, and the Cathedral and the Rows proved of great interest. After lunch most of the members visited the Free Library, only to find that it was closed for the afternoon, and neither librarian nor caretaker was in evidence to show visitors over the building. This action was freely criticised by the friends of the librarian, who had expected to see him. A drive was then taken to Eaton Hall, and the stables, gardens and public rooms of the mansion were fully examined. This was followed by tea, the return journey to Chester being made by boat on the Dee; a peep being obtained on the way of the residence of the late Tom Hughes, of Rugby fame. A large party were fortunate enough to catch an early boat, and under the guidance of Mr. Charles Welch, inspected the ruins of Chester's first Cathedral. Others returned to Manchester by a late train, and so closed the Conference of 1899.

CALVA.



OPEN LETTERS.—No. 1.



TO THE COUNCIL OF THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

By P.P.

Gentlemen—The Twenty-second Annual Meeting of the Association, over whose destinies you have the distinguished honour to preside, has come and gone, and has exhibited your singular lack of the organizing faculty, combined with your remarkable aptitude for evading your responsibilities. This, to be sure, is more plain-spoken than polite, but a little plain speaking occasionally is harmless, and may act as a salutary lesson, seeing, that of late, you have shown a misplaced ambition to emulate the Heathen Chinee in "ways that are dark and tricks that are vain."

The intellectual fare provided for the satisfying of our hunger for professional "more light" consisted, to be frank—and this letter shall be nothing if not frank—of a great deal more table-cloth than meat, more husk than kernel. This is in no way intended to reflect upon

those who gave the papers, to whom our grateful thanks are due, but, as a whole, the programme was miserably disappointing, and if compared with an A. L. A. programme will bring out in strong relief the difference between a Council which knows its work, and does it in the best way, and—yourselves. To the Americans the whole idea and chief value of a conference is *the conferring*. They think that the ideas of twenty men on a subject are many times more valuable than the ideas of one, and, with this end in view, the papers are short, up-to-date, and thoroughly practical, and are looked upon as entirely secondary to the discussion, for which they provide a topic and a direction. But with us, under your régime, a very different state of things prevails. Papers of a purely historical, bibliographical, or literary character, upon which no discussion can possibly be raised, form the major part of the syllabus, and are placed in the very best positions, instead of being either relegated to the end, or marked “to be taken as read.” If any paper has to be so taken, as is nearly always the case, owing to the portentous length of the aforesaid contributions, it is the practical paper which goes; or, if it manages to escape this fate, the discussion is throttled when it has barely begun, or is not allowed at all, as was the case with Mr. Lyster’s paper on Classification this year. What on earth is the use of spending time and money to merely hear a paper read, when we can read it for ourselves in the *Record*—that is, when it has beautifully mellowed by keeping, and presuming that the Editor has been graciously pleased to accord it the honour of publication. What do we hold a Conference for, if it be not primarily for an exchange of views? And why do we attend an absurd Conference which does not confer? Some of us because we are lucky enough to be paid to go, some to climb into a dress suit as often as possible, some of us to read papers, some—an heroic band—to listen to them, and some of us, it may be, on the off chance of learning something which shall be useful to us in our daily work. A very off chance; but, has not somebody said something about hope springing eternal in the human breast?

Again, comparing our syllabus with that of the A. L. A. meeting, we are struck by the fact that, while the A. L. A. syllabus is fully abreast of all that is going on as regards matters affecting libraries in every direction, and in all parts of the world, ours, as a whole, is hopelessly old-fashioned, and out of touch with the questions of the hour. We go droning on, hearing the same old subjects treated in the same old way, as though the library movement and library administration, like grandfather’s clock, “stopped short, never to go again,” when certain well-known libraries had assumed to themselves a state bordering upon perfection. We are tired of your funeral baked meats, Gentlemen; we want a few fresh dishes.

Where are we to look for reasons for this “weary, stale, flat, and unprofitable” condition of things—a condition even more characteristic of the monthly meetings than of the annual one. “The tea is getting very thin”—is there none wherewith to make a fresh brew? Hasn’t the Association material enough in its ranks to produce papers as practical, discussions as alive and useful as the A. L. A.? We prefer

to think it has. But what it undoubtedly lacks is the capacity to elect a Council which shall know how to draw from the Association of its best, which shall take the widest view of its duties to the Association and the library movement, and which shall deal honestly and fairly with the members. Have you done so? Truth compels us to say, you have not.

When you do the obviously right thing, as when, for example, you arranged for a report on Open Access, at the Southport meeting—surely a timely and proper subject to engage the attention of the Association—you were frightened into suppressing that report, giving a reason which was no reason.

But you do not rest here. After having allowed papers to be read, and having received them from their authors to be published in due course, in what purports to be the official organ of the Association, you quietly suppress them. So much is evident from the way in which you evade answering the questions—the very right and proper questions which were asked by Mr. Jast at the annual business meeting. The sorry spectacle of a Chartered Association pretending that it had not considered questions which were asked in print as long ago as last June, and which *must* have been before it, we will not dwell upon. "Courage," said that redoubtable duellist, Bob Acres, "will come and go." Yours seems to go with a vengeance, Gentlemen, on these occasions.

Then, with what skill you fixed the Business Meeting this year so that it should not last beyond the hour-and-a-half, while a considerable portion of even this miserably inadequate time was occupied with various formal resolutions, each moved and seconded at some length by our many burning and shining oratorical lights, when the whole might have been condensed into one or two resolutions, and disposed of in five minutes. It is pitiful that the only meeting in the year, when matters vital to the interests of the Association can be dealt with, and when questions arising out of your report can be asked, should be sandwiched in the programme between the tail end of the papers and the photograph and luncheon hour. So long as there is *any* business to discuss, and any reasonable number of members who choose to discuss it, you have surely no just right to put a period to it, technical legality apart.

But, Gentlemen, the methods you employ are the methods of weakness, not of strength. And in the present crisis of the Association's history, when the cloud "no bigger than a man's hand" appeared on our horizon at the meeting referred to, a strong Council is wanted, now, if ever it was. The Association has got into the habit of re-electing you almost *en bloc*, year after year. What has been, and is, may not always be—the Association may suddenly wake up to the fact that it has an unrepresentative acting Council. In which pious hope, we conclude, and bid you *adieu*.

[Our correspondent raises so many important points that we have thought it well to insert this open letter, which has lost something of its strength and flavour in its passage through the Editor's sanctum, so as to allow interested persons an opportunity of discussing the matters of library policy mentioned.

SONGS OF THE PSEUDONYMS.

II.—THE BRISK YOUNG LAD FROM THE COUNTRY.

Briskly, with spirit.

1. The lad in the coun-try makes his plan To come to London when

- e'er he can, For to be a great li-brarian, Like other young lads from the country.

CHORUS.

Rub-a-dub dub dub, rub-a-dub dub dub, The brisk young lad from the coun-try.

2.
The first bold step in his little game,
Is through the country to spread his
fame,
By printing pars containing his name,
In all the papers of the country.

3.
His Annual Report he soon indites,
And in it the Fiction Bogey smites,
Whilst putting everything else to rights,
Like other young lads from the country.

4.
His record Catalogue next appears,
To set Librarians by the ears,
And fill his Borrowers' hearts with fears,
While booming its way in the country.

5.
At Annual Meetings of the L. A.,
His tongue goes clattering every day,
Wasting much time with nothing to say,
Like other young lads from the country.

6.
Then as a selected Candidate,
He comes to London in splendid state,
With shiney tall hat, and gloves, elate,
Like other young lads from the country.

7.
The new Committee he dazzles quite,
By swearing he'll set the Thames alight,
And keep his Petty Cash very tight,
Much better than some from the country.

8.
But, somehow, he finds the Thanes won't
burn,
It declines to blaze to serve his turn;
His efforts then he has to adjourn,
For the next young lad from the country.

9.
So rests on his oars, and draws his screw,
And does as little as he can do;
Dispensing mighty patronage too,
Among good young lads in the country.

CATALOGUING.

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- (1.) Fulham Public Libraries. Catalogue of the Central Libraries (Lending and Reference). 1899. pp i-xvi. 437.
- (2.) Borough of Tynemouth. Catalogue of the Lending Department. North Shields. 1899. pp. i-viii. 384.
- (3.) Kilburn Public Library. Supplementary Catalogue of Books added to the Lending Department, with a complete key to the Indicator of Classes F (Fiction) and J (Juvenile). Compiled by James A. Seymour, Librarian. Richmond. 1899. pp. 193.

These publications illustrate in a very clear manner the extraordinary differences which can exist in the conception and execution of catalogues supposed to be compiled according to the same rules. They are all dictionary catalogues, or at least, modified examples of the form, but each is qualified or conditioned by personal idiosyncrasies of its compiler, just as if no general body of rules existed. It might well be asked, after an examination of these three examples, what is a dictionary catalogue? And, if were answered that, after about forty years experience, "Only the Lord knows," no one could be very much surprised, with such divergent specimens before him.

No. 1 is an admirable example of a strict dictionary catalogue, on which some attempt is made to graft the more advanced practice of annotation and classification. The entries are full, very clear, and, when annotated, sufficiently descriptive and useful. The difficulties of fully annotating a large catalogue in dictionary form are fully shown in Mr. Barrett's work. Clarendon's "History of the Rebellion and Civil Wars in England, 1839" is a misleading entry under the author, but at "England: History to the Revolution," it is elucidated by the addition of the period covered, shown in brackets [1628-60]. Mr. Barrett has apparently attempted to get over the difficulty of repeating annotations under every entry by choosing the subject rather than the author as the best. But he is by no means consistent, and many epoch-making books which should have had dates of origin or period added, are without such necessary aids to comprehension. In references, classification or sub-division of headings, and in other important respects, this catalogue is one of the best recent examples we have seen. At the beginning is given a useful "Classified Table of Subject-Headings," arranged according to the Dewey system, which will no doubt be useful to students who wish information as to topic relationships. The Preface is a veritable exposition of some of the chief points in dictionary cataloguing, which many library assistants would find useful.

No. 2 is arranged in three sections: General, Magazines, Fiction and Juvenile, and alphabetical order is followed in each. The General

section is on ordinary dictionary catalogue lines, but is not very clearly printed, the indented entries under subject being very confusing, owing to turned over lines projecting in front of the catch-words of entries. Dates of publication are generally given, dates of origin of early works occasionally, but dates of period covered in historical works are conspicuous by their absence. In other respects the catalogue is a great advance upon previous issues from Tynemouth, and reflects much credit upon Messrs. Tidey and Hair the compilers.

No. 3 is distinguished by the number of its set-out entries, though these are not consistently indexed under subject-heads. For instance, while Sir J. F. Stephen's essay on David Hume in "Horæ Sabbaticæ" is under "Hume," as also the sketch in Gibbon's "Autobiographies"; the essay in Leslie Stephen's "English Thought," perhaps the most valuable, is ignored. Then, the valuable essays of Edmund Gosse on poets are missed, as, likewise, is his essay on Stevenson, while various ephemeral contributions on Stevenson in Magazines are fully indexed. Consistency is difficult, if not impossible to attain, but surely important contributions to literary criticism are worthy of more attention. There is a separate alphabetical list or Indicator key of all the fiction.

The consideration of these catalogues, each possessing its own features of elaboration, moves us to the reflection that the plan of *printing* this kind of temporary catalogue not only means an enormous expenditure of labour, but of money as well. We say "temporary catalogue," because it is only *complete* for a few hours, and as time goes on and additions are made, or out-of-date books withdrawn, the catalogue becomes less and less representative, and in two or three years is almost useless. This leads us to the inevitable conclusion that, in every case where it is absolutely essential that a reader should go to a library to choose or read a book, a comparatively inexpensive catalogue in manuscript at the library, always complete and up-to-date, easily kept in this ideal condition, and always available for the use of readers, is infinitely preferable to an expensive printed catalogue, which in many cases is published to dazzle other librarians rather than to assist the public. If librarians would only consider that such complete MSS. catalogues *need never be reviewed*, the doom of the printed catalogue would be sealed. We have published various pleas on these lines recently, and it seems to be a growing belief, that not only is the dictionary catalogue on the wane, but the cult of the printed catalogue itself is threatened. There is room for a good article on this subject, which, though old, is fresher than it was in the days of Edward Edwards, and even before his time. A good deal can be said on both sides, and we shall welcome a good paper in advocacy of either form.



STUDIES IN LIBRARY PRACTICE.

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I.—THE HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION OF LIBRARY CHARGING SYSTEMS. PART II.—INDICATORS. By JAMES D. BROWN, *Librarian, Clerkenwell Public Library, London.*

(Continued from page 62, Vol. II.)

COTGREAVE INDICATOR, 1877.

THIS Indicator was invented by Mr. Alfred Cotgreave, the present Librarian of West Ham, when he was librarian of the Wednesday Public Library, in 1877. At the time of his invention an Elliot Indicator was in use at Wednesday, and it was owing to the misplacement of borrowers' tickets in this Indicator, that Mr. Cotgreave's attention was drawn to the question of providing some remedy. He tried various schemes to prevent such mistakes, but ultimately decided that movable numbered blocks, filling up every space in the Indicator would best meet the difficulty. An Indicator on this principle was thereon designed, and later, the numbered blocks were replaced by wooden blocks having a record book attached. The Handsworth Public Library first adopted this Indicator. Subsequently the wooden block was superseded by a metal slide in which the little book carrying the record of issues was placed. In this form the Cotgreave Indicator has existed for a number of years, and it is so well known that it is almost unnecessary to give a description of it in detail. However, I have transcribed an account of its structure and working from one of the descriptive circulars issued in connection with it, from which anyone can gather a good idea of its appearance and use:—

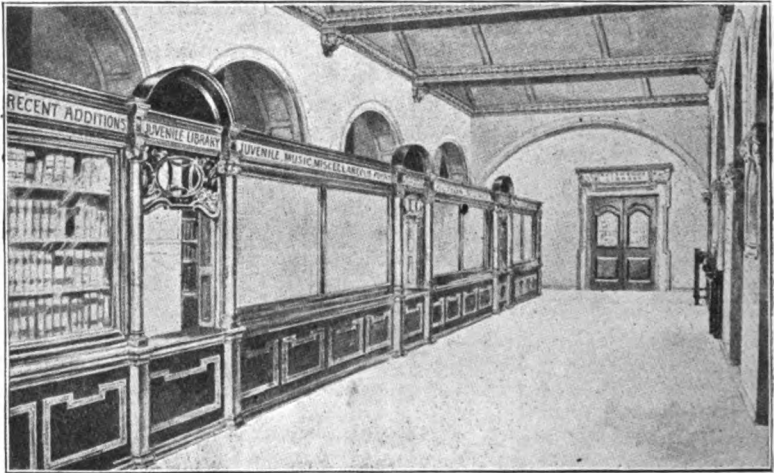
“It consists of a wooden or iron frame, fitted with minute zinc shelves, generally one hundred in a column. Upon each of these shelves is placed a small metal-bound ledger, containing a number of leaves, ruled and headed for the number of borrower's ticket, and date of issue; also date of return or other items as may be required, numbered or lettered at each end, and arranged numerically in the frames. One part of it is also lettered for entries of date of purchase, title of book, &c. The metal case has turned up ends, and the numbers appear on a ground coloured red at one end, and blue at the other, one colour showing books *out*, the other books *in*; other colours may be used if preferred. The *out* numbers can be covered altogether with a date slide if required. The change of colour is effected by simply reversing the ledger in the Indicator frame. The public side of the Indicator is protected by glass.

The *modus operandi* is as follows:—A borrower having chosen a book from the catalogue, consults the Indicator, and finding the required number to be on *blue*, denoting *in*, asks for the book corresponding, at the same time tendering his library ticket. The assistant

withdraws the Indicator ledger, makes the necessary entries, inserts borrower's ticket, and reverses the ledger, which then shows the *red* colour, signifying *out*. He then hands out the book asked for. The borrower's ticket will remain in this number until he changes his book, when his ticket will, of course, be transferred to the next number required, and the returned number will be reversed again, showing by the *blue* colour that the book it represents is again *in*, and is immediately available to any other reader requiring it. The entries need not be made at the time of issue, but may stand over until a more convenient time.

When a book is not required, the ticket is returned to the borrower, and acts as a receipt, exonerating him from liabilities."

There are many ways of working this Indicator in order to obtain certain records or notifications of overdues, and nearly every library has some modification of its own. The view given of the Indicator at



COTGROVE INDICATOR, WEST HAM PUBLIC LIBRARY.

the West Ham Public Library will give some idea of its bulk and appearance, but as it is so well known I do not propose to give any more details of its structure. It is by far the most used Indicator of all the varieties in existence, and has been largely adopted in English libraries. It is also, in my opinion, superior to other varieties in its provision of a fixed place for numbers and the relative records of issue. Mistakes are less likely to occur than with Indicators already described, which only provide vacant pigeon-holes for receiving the record of issue. On the other hand, unless worked with a check card system, it is apt to encourage the tendency of assistants to place borrowers' cards in the wrong numbers, and when this occurs, it is often impossible to trace the error, when no separate card or ledger account is kept. This

point is emphasized in the report of the L.A.U.K. Committee, referred to later on, and it remains at the present day the weak feature of this Indicator considered simply from its mechanical side. Various means have been adopted to surmount this difficulty, which will be considered along with other items of counter routine in a later instalment of this series of papers. Mr. Cotgreave has designed other Indicators which will be noticed in their order.

THE WRIGHT-STANLAKE INDICATOR, 1879.

This indicator was invented by Mr. W. H. K. Wright, Librarian of the Plymouth Public Library, in conjunction with Mr. R. Stanlake, of Plymouth, and was described and exhibited in 1879. It is called the "Library Indicator-Catalogue," and though following the lines of the Elliot Indicator in construction, differs from it in being also a rough classified catalogue of the library. The following description is abstracted from a circular prepared by Mr. Wright, in September, 1879, entitled, "The Library Indicator-Catalogue and Charging System, as in use at the Free Library, Plymouth. Adopted 1879."

This Indicator consists of small tin shelves arranged in perpendicular rows of one hundred. Between each row a solid space is reserved for the title-slips, which are affixed to the back as well as the front. The number slips are placed on narrow strips of tin, soldered on to the front edge of the tin shelves, and these strips answer a double purpose, for besides bearing the number they prevent the coloured slips from being pushed to the glass front. The numbers on the back are placed on a curved piece of wood, at the right of the title-slips. The Indicator is arranged in class sections; the distinguishing marks used in the Indicator are as follows:—

RED signifies	...	Borrowed.
WHITE „	...	Binding.
BLUE „	...	Withdrawn.
YELLOW „	...	At School Library.

In order to shew the form of working, it is necessary to explain the charging system, as combined with the Indicator-Catalogue. Each borrower, who has been enrolled, receives a Ticket, which has to be presented on every occasion of returning or applying for a book. This card bears the name, address, the consecutive number, and date of issue. On the issue of a Borrower's Ticket, a Register Card is also prepared, with the same particulars furnished as a heading. These Register Cards are kept in pigeon-holes, arranged by hundreds, in consecutive order. Upon the Register Card every transaction with the Borrower is recorded; and from it statistics are taken, accounts of fines entered as paid or due, and other information given. It answers the purpose of a ledger, or Dr. and Cr. account for each borrower. In addition to this a small slip, headed "Borrower's Application and Receipt," is supplied, which the borrower is desired to fill up, and which is retained as a receipt for the same. These slips are placed in boxes attached to the Indicator-Catalogue frame.

The plan adopted by a borrower in returning and drawing a book is briefly as follows:—On entering the library he proceeds to the “return counter,” and hands in the book he wishes to return, and his ticket. The attendant immediately refers to the Register Card, according to the number, and drawing it from its pack or pigeon-hole enters thereon the date of return, with initials and amount of fine (if any is paid), previously, however, scrutinizing the numbers to see that both book and card agree. The date of issue entered on the card, and on the register slip attached to the book, enables the attendant to see at a glance if the book is overdue, and is therefore chargeable.

The return effected, the borrower immediately goes to the Indicator-Catalogue, and to the desired Section, providing himself with an “Application Slip,” he selects his book, enters the title and number, with his name, number, and date, and hands it to the attendant at the “Issuing Desk.” An inspection of the Indicator has shown him at a glance whether the book he requires is in the library or not. The attendant takes the slip and procures the book applied for, adding the date on the un gummed end of the slip, as a certification of issue. An entry is then made upon the Register Card, which has been passed up from the return counter, a duplicate entry being placed in the book itself, which is then handed to the borrower. The slips thus certified are taken by an attendant, and affixed by a gummed end to a strip of wood with a red edge, and the slip thus mounted is placed in the Indicator-Rack opposite to the title of the book issued. The borrower's receipt, in his own handwriting, is thus retained in the Indicator until the book is returned, when the wood strip is withdrawn, the tin shelf left empty, the application form cancelled, and the book replaced upon its shelf. If, however, any damage to the book is discovered, or it is ascertained that it requires re-binding or repair, a white slip is placed in the frame instead of the red; or if the book is worn, or there is any other cause for its withdrawal, a blue strip is substituted.

The Register Cards, as used, are sorted in piles, according to the section of the book last entered as issued, and at the close of the day, or early the next morning, the simple counting of these cards furnishes accurate statistics of the day's issues, the total being then recorded on special forms, and the cards run into their places ready for the next transaction with the borrower.

THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION AND THE INDICATOR, 1879—1880.

The great extension in the use of Indicators in England dates from the time when the Library Association of the United Kingdom took official notice of them in 1879, and committed itself to an expression of opinion which had much weight and influence among a certain class of librarian. As this is the only occasion on which this Association has gone out of its way to appraise and commend a library appliance, it is worth full notice, particularly as it proves the value of an official utterance from the advertising point of view. Arising out of two papers on Indicators, read at the Manchester Meeting of 1879, a “Small Committee of Public Librarians” was ordered to be appointed

to consider and report on Indicators. The Committee appointed in terms of this recommendation consisted of Messrs. John Elliot (Wolverhampton), J. D. Mullins (Birmingham), S. Timmins (Birmingham), E. Tonks (Birmingham), and W. H. K. Wright (Plymouth). Of these, two were not "public librarians," and the others were inventors or users of indicators. Enquiry circulars were duly sent forth, and it appears from the replies that the Indicators known or reported to the Committee were Elliot's, Cotgreave's, Kennedy's, Morgan's, Dyall's, Wright and Stanlake's, and one used at West Bromwich, the inventor of which was not known. The Committee met at Birmingham and reported to the Edinburgh meeting of 1880, as follows:—

"The committee recognizing that the Indicator effects a saving of the time both of the borrower and the library staff, consider it a useful addition to a lending library. It appears from the subjoined analysis that some of the libraries make the Indicator the sole record of issues, and do not supplement it by any other entry. The committee are of opinion that as the record afforded by the Indicator may be seriously affected by the carelessness or wantonness of those who have access to it, it is indispensable, whatever form may be used, that an additional record be kept in a book, or on a series of cards such as are used in some libraries. If this additional entry be made, it is less necessary to use complicated Indicators, and they think the simplest form will be found to be the best. They avoid specifying any particular form, as the merits of each depend, to a certain extent, on circumstances, and the librarian who has to use the Indicator can generally judge which form will best suit his purpose."

On the motion of Mr. Timmins, seconded by Mr. J. K. Waite, this report was read and adopted at the Edinburgh meeting of the L.A.U.K. in 1880.* There can be no doubt that a favourable report from a body like the L.A.U.K., coming at a time when ideas of librarianship were more or less primitive and easily led, had great influence in causing the general adoption of the Indicator system in English public libraries. At any rate, it is from 1880 that I find its use spreading, and the vague ideas as to its usefulness crystallizing into a positive belief in the minds of many librarians. However honest and convinced the Library Association may have been in 1880 as to the merits of a new appliance, it is quite certain that its action in recommending an Indicator as "a useful addition to a lending library," has been responsible for hindering and checking enquiry and inventiveness; while it has established a sort of traditional belief, in many quarters, that an Indicator is as indispensable as books to the equipment of a library. Whenever a device can be found ready-made and easily obtainable, especially when stamped with the commendation of a public body laying claim to the title of expert, every man who is averse to, or incapable of thinking out something for himself, will lay hold of it as a certain way of salvation. In this manner it has come about that originality and individuality in English librarianship have become partly stifled by the blind adoption of ready-made appliances, which make

* L.A.U.K. Transactions, 1880

work easier, without being genuine labour-saving devices. The Library Association made a grave blunder, very likely unknowingly, in thus selecting for approval one out of many systems of library charging, without due consideration of the fact that private commercial interests were being advanced. In later years the policy of this Association has been to studiously avoid commending anything, whether a commercial commodity or not; and thus it has come about that in spite of its charter and manifold objects of Association, it no longer affords a platform for the calm and impartial discussion of experiments or new departures in library administration. It loftily delegates the consideration of such trivial matters to its American counterpart, the A. L. A.

(*To be continued.*)

II.—CLASSIFIED AND ANNOTATED CATALOGUING :
SUGGESTIONS AND RULES. By L. STANLEY JAST,
Librarian, Croydon Public Libraries.

(*Continued from page 33.*)

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THE TITLE.

What to Omit.

59. The attitude of the wise cataloguer towards the title (who is not compiling a bibliographical catalogue, but a reader's key and guide) will be neither to extravagantly regard it as sacred, nor to in any way despise it. Nothing should be added to it except in case of absolute necessity, nor should it be cut down in the ruthless manner with which many dictionary catalogues have made us familiar. The beldam Economy is responsible for this much slashing and maltreating of titles, but the hag may be largely discounted by the class cataloguer.

60. Nevertheless, [long titles should be abridged by leaving out non-informative or redundant matter.] The title thereby gains in clearness, irrespective of the room saved, which may be utilised to better purpose. The difficulty comes in in deciding just what is sufficiently informative to be worth retention, what not. The difficulty is the less in the class list as the tendency should be rather to include than to delete. The rule is then, in cases of doubt, retain.

61. [Never abridge at the first word (not an article) of the title.]

62. [Disregard an article at the beginning of a title only when its absence does not affect the meaning (*e.g.*, it would not do to enter Gras' novel, "The Terror," as "Terror"), or lends it an awkward look (*e.g.*, "Town Dweller" for "The Town Dweller").]

63. Permit yourself the luxury of decent English. Don't perpetrate anything like "Inconveniences of Long Continuance of Same Parliament" for "Inconveniences of a Long Continuance of *the* Same Parliament"—as recommended in Perkins.

64. [First titles of novels you will rarely abridge, but second titles you will drop, unless they tell some definite fact (place, period, subject, treatment, &c.) about the story.] In the following examples, keep the second title:—

Barabbas : a Dream of the World's Tragedy.
 Thelma : a Norwegian Princess.
 Witch of Prague : a Fantastic Tale.
 Matt : a Story of a Caravan.
 Uarda : a Romance of Ancient Egypt.
 Arminel : a Social Romance.
 Cricket : a Tale of Humble Life.

Omit in cases like the following:—

The Honourable Miss : a Story of an Old-fashioned Town.
 A Queer Race : the Story of a Strange People.
 Digby Grand : an Autobiography.

65. In more serious works the second title will be often the most informative, and it will, with few exceptions, be retained.

66. Some examples of title abridgment; parts left out are bracketed:—

(being the) Report of the Education Section.
 for (the Use of) Craftsmen.
 : Lectures (given) in Oxford (in) '83-85.
 : (a Treatise on the) Meanings of Armorial Bearings.
 : (Account of a) Journey in Tibet.
 Woman's Influence in the East : (as Shown in the Noble) Lives of Past Queens of India.
 Philosophy of Greece (Considered) in Relation to the Character of Its People.
 Cathedral (Church) of Southwell : (a Description of) Its Fabric and (a) Brief History of the (Episcopal) See.
 : (a Series of) Critical Biographies with (Illustrative) Extracts.
 Mad Tour : (or, a Journey Undertaken in an Insane Moment) Through Central Europe on Foot.
 Bricklayers', Masons', Plasterers', Plumbers', etc., Work. The "etc." standing for several other trades mentioned in the title.

Additions.

67. Do not add anything to a title unless it is absolutely required, which will be very rarely, and which will be probably limited to the addition of an "and" or "with." Any matter so added must be put in square brackets.

Punctuation.

68. Use (:) between the main and second titles; and (;) to separate different treatises bound together, as

Art of England; and The Pleasures of England : Lectures in Oxford.

In this instance the second title applies to both treatises. Sometimes we have what amounts to a second and third title, as

Funafuti: Three Months on a Coral Island: an Unscientific Account of a Scientific Expedition.

In the following example of a three-title book, the second, which tells nothing, should be disregarded, and the third title entered as the second one:—

Count of the Saxon Shore: or, The Villa in Vectis: a Tale of the Departure of the Romans from Britain.

The following is a curious example of what is really the main title split into two sections by a piece of the second title sandwiched between:—

Reminiscences of Two Exiles: Kossuth and Pulszky: and Two Wars: Crimean and Franco-Austrian.

The complete main title of this book is "Reminiscences of Two Exiles and Two Wars."

69. The colon may also fitly introduce a statement drawing attention to some special or supplementary feature of the book, usually beginning with a word like "with" or "including," as

Colour: a Text-Book of Modern Chemistry: with Applications to Art and Industry.

But it should not be employed when the connection is too close, as Nasal Polypus, with Neuralgia, Hay Fever, and Asthma, in Relation to Ethmoiditis.

Handbook for the Nursing of Sick Children, with a Few Hints on Their Management.

Mameluke or Slave Dynasty of Egypt.

All these titles are units, and do not properly permit of cleavage by (:).

70. Some other examples of the use of (:):—

Essays: Selected.

Romany Rye: Sequel to Lavengro.

71. The punctuation of a title need not be adhered to (but do not change without cause), and must always be altered when it clashes with the foregoing usage of (:) and (;). Brackets should not be copied in a title; replace by commas.

Capitals.

72. Capitalise every word in a title except articles and merely connecting words. I am well aware that this is in direct antagonism to Cutter and other authorities, who advocate the contrary practice of avoiding capitals except where specified in an elaborate code of rules (there are thirteen dealing with this point in the L. S. rules), and that I part company here with many librarians for whose opinions I have the highest respect, but I must confess that uncapitalised titles always seem to me bizarre and ugly. And so I believe they strike everyone, save the librarian who has cultured a liking for them, as one cultures a taste for olives or tomatoes. But it is not mere prejudice that is behind this objection to the absence of capitals in titles. Compare, side by side, a page of a catalogue which follows the latter practice with a page of one which follows the former, and it will be seen how much relief to

the eye is given by the capitals, and how much better the titles stand out from the rest of the entry, as compared with the dead uniformity which reigns when every part is the equal of every other part, and—to quote Mr. W. S. Gilbert—“dukes are two a penny.” I object to this universal levelling, and maintain the right of the title to its patent of nobility—which is capitals.

73. In all other parts of the entry, whether in description or note, let the rule be to avoid capitals, unless demanded by the ordinary rules of grammar.

Names in Titles.

74. Forenames of persons occurring in a title are to be treated as by rule 51, *i.e.*, if single forename, in full, if more, initials; but do not supply a full name where only an initial is given. But fictitious names should be entered without change.

75. Distinguish a title in a title by inverted commas. As also the names of ships, &c.

(To be continued.)



INSURANCE OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

By CECIL T. DAVIS, *Librarian of Wandsworth Public Libraries.*

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IN spite of all precautions which may be taken, even in the best regulated libraries, there is always the risk of that all-devouring element—fire. Besides the destruction caused by the fire itself there is the damage done to the books by the heat and smoke as well as by the water used to extinguish the fire.

Sometimes too much trust is put in iron and steel. True, they are non-combustible in the ordinary sense of the word, but they are extremely dangerous at the time of a fire, the beams and columns expand with the heat and contract as the water comes upon them. The result of this expansion and contraction is that they twist about like huge snakes, and instead of proving a support they become a means of destruction.

Again, stone is thought to be indestructible, but under the influence of fire and water even the hardest, such as granite, flies in all directions.

It would be easy to refer to the destruction of precious books and of even more precious manuscripts by fire from very early times. Who does not remember the disastrous fire of 1879 when Birmingham lost their very valuable, nay more, their unique treasures by the destruction of the Central Free Library; when only 1,000 books were preserved out of the magnificent collection of 50,000. Then, again, the havoc wrought by the fire-fiend at Norwich, in August, 1898, and, alas! at West Ham, on October 23rd, 1899.

In the first place it is incumbent on our friends the architects to plan our library buildings so that, as far as in their power lies, the building may be rendered fireproof. All structural ironwork should be covered with concrete or some other fire-resisting material. All gas pipes should be easy of access, especially where elbows occur, and care should be taken, wherever water may accumulate in the pipes, that there be provided a convenient arrangement for drawing it off. Extra precautions should be taken if bookbinding be done on the premises.

The employment of tapers and matches should be rigorously debarred; instead, an electric torch should be provided. Accumulations of loose paper should be strictly banished to a fire-proof place. Though we may not expect an outburst of spontaneous combustion, yet it is advisable to keep cleared up all things liable to generate heat. In fact cleanliness and tidiness would be an advantage in every way; the chimneys, too, should be regularly kept clear of soot.

A good force of water should be supplied to every floor of the building with hose and buckets always ready. Where this is not practicable one or more of the excellent hand pumps should be provided, and the buckets should be kept full of water. In five minutes at the start more can be done to stop the progress of a fire than in five hours after.

All electric installations should be very carefully attended to; the rules issued by the Fire Insurance Companies must be obeyed.

We will suppose that all these precautions are taken, yet there is one more thing to be done, and that is insure. Before accepting the risk the Company chosen will make a careful examination of the building and of its surroundings; and according to the report of the surveyor the rate will be made. This may commence as low as $\frac{1}{3}$ or $\frac{1}{6}$ per cent, and is raised in proportion to the risk.



THE LIBRARY STAFF.

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Catalogue Arrangement. WHEN borrowers are scanning the pages or slips of a catalogue for any particular book, they little think of all the time and care which have been bestowed on the arranging of the slips by some poor assistant, who could "a little tale unfold" about the many rules attached to alphabetizing, which, if not adhered to, will lead to the ruin of the catalogue, however well the work may have been executed.

The trouble often lies in not knowing whether a slip should go *before* or *after* another slip. Whether, for instance, De Morgan should go before or after Demange, and, in the same way Davies or Da Vinci; Demosthenes or De Quincey; La Bruyère or Labour; Le Gallienne or Legends, and so on. Mr. Quinn, in his admirable little book "Manual of Library Cataloguing," p. 45, says, "If the prefix happens to be the definite article 'le' or 'la,' or the article is comprised in it as 'du' then the entry is to be given under the prefix." The following names show the part of name which leads off:—

La Bruyère, Jean de
 La Sizeranne, Robert de
 Le Monnier, L.
 Du Boisgobey, F.
 Du Camp, Maximè

In arranging such names for alphabetical order they would come in place as Labr., Lasi., Lemo., Dubo., Duco." The same rule applies to such names as De Morgan, Da Vinci, De Quincey, Le Gallienne, &c., they are arrayed as one word—Demo., Davi., Dequ., and Lega.

Another point to be remembered is that the author comes first, the subject next, then the title-entry :—

Burns, Robert (author)
 Burns, Robert (subject)
 Burns and Scalds (title)

Initials of authors should go before christian names beginning with the same initial.

In different editions of an author's work arrange by date of publication.

Abbreviated words in title-entries, such as Dr., Mr., Mrs., should be entered as if written in full.

Mc, Mac, M', are arranged as if spelled Mac; St. as if spelled Saint.

The possessive case should not affect the arrangement, nor such titles as, Lord, Lady, Sir, Dr., Rev., &c. The names of Kings always go first :—

Henry VIII.
 Henry, John

In this short paragraph we have endeavoured to explain those points in alphabetizing which trouble a beginner, but should any of our readers experience any difficulty on this or any other subject connected with their work we would ask them to explain the matter to us and we shall do our best to assist them.

Reserving Books. LIBRARIANS as a rule are always willing to do anything to make their libraries as useful as possible; allowing their borrowers as much freedom as the system in use at their library permits. In nearly all libraries books can be kept until called for, by the payment of one penny, which covers the cost of a post-card which is sent when the desired book is in. This system has, as far as we know, worked very well, but there is another system which might be worked in conjunction with this—the detention of books by telephone. Telephone communication has been established between the Central Library at Croydon and its branches, enabling readers to obtain books which are not in use at any of the libraries, but are kept for them for one day on their undertaking to call or send for them. I think the time has come when every library should be connected with the Telephone Exchange in their town so that readers

could ascertain if the book they want is in or out. This would save them the trouble of walking to the library only to be disappointed. We shall be glad to have the opinion of any librarian or assistant on the subject, or the experience of those who are already connected by telephone directly or indirectly with the Exchange in their town.

Annual Publications. A CERTAIN number of annual publications are purchased by libraries every year. These have generally a fixed time for publication, but it will have been the experience of all those who have had to deal with them that it is difficult to fix on a plan which ensures their being ordered and received by the library shortly after publication. For instance, in the case of University Calenders, which are not largely advertised, the publication of the new issue is not known until a borrower asks for it and finds to his inconvenience that it has not yet been received by the library. For the benefit of those who have not yet got over the difficulty we would ask assistants to forward us a short description of the plan adopted in the library they are engaged in.

Studies for Assistants. THE time has come for assistants to fix on a subject or subjects for study during the winter months. Some may join a French class, others a German, and those with a scientific turn of mind may study Physiography. All these subjects are good and useful, but are they the best for those engaged in library work? I am afraid too much importance is attached to subjects which seldom enter into the duties of the majority of assistants engaged in our Public Libraries. What is wanted is librarians who have studied the trades connected with their work. Committees do not want librarians who are well versed in the sciences or masters of several languages, until they have first taught themselves to know when a book is well bound or when a catalogue has been well printed. Before joining a class ask yourself the question—is it better for me to be able to check books returned from the binder or be acquainted with the sciences which may be useful to about 2% of my borrowers?

Study in Work Hours. WHILE on the subject of suitable studies for library assistants we would like to know if any librarian allows his or her assistants to read books or periodicals connected with their work while on duty? In the morning and afternoon we know that a lot of work can be got through without interruption, but in the evening, when assistants have a few minutes to themselves between the "rushes," we think that these intervals might be profitably occupied by the reading of a literary magazine or books connected in some way with library work, instead of trying to catalogue books accurately as well as attending to the issue desk, which means that one eye has to be on the slip you are writing and the other on the counter. We shall be obliged to any assistant who may send us information on this point.

LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS.

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THE opening of the **John Rylands Library** at Manchester, on Friday, October 6th, was the principal event of the past month. The function was a kind of cross between a prayer meeting and a civic banquet, or, as one frivolous guest expressed it, a "compound of hymns and ham sandwiches"; but was successful, nevertheless, in launching another great library on a career of usefulness. Although this library can never hope to reach or help the great mass of the people of Manchester, as an extension of the Public Library would have done, it will no doubt be valuable as a convenient workshop for such scholars and theological students as the city can spare from the paramount requirements of the cotton trade. The appreciation of this library by Dr. Richard Garnett, which appears in the *London Daily Chronicle* of October 16th, will satisfy all who regard institutions of this kind with sentimental or reverential feelings, based on the amount of hard cash expended. To practical minds, the spectacle of two provincial British Museums in adjoining streets cannot be viewed with much satisfaction, but, of course, it's none of our business. The more libraries there are the happier we shall be.

At a meeting of the committee in charge of the public testimonial to Mr. **John Maclauchlan**, Librarian, Dundee, it was reported that the subscriptions received amounted, after deducting expenses of advertising, &c., to £716. The committee unanimously decided that a silver tea service and diamond ring should be presented to Mrs. Maclauchlan, and a deposit receipt for £650 to Mr. Maclauchlan. The presentations were made at a meeting of subscribers held in the Town Hall, on September 26th.

THE question of opening the **Edinburgh** Public Library on Sundays has been broached, and is to come up for discussion at a future meeting. A fire broke out in the store-room of this library on October 7th, but was extinguished by the Fire Brigade before much damage had been done.

THE Public Libraries' Acts have been adopted by the Urban District Council of **Dalton-in-Furness**, North Lancashire, and will come into operation on January 1st, 1900. The population is 14,000.

THE **Swansea** Public Library has put the "blacking out" policy in operation, on the recommendation of Mr. S. Thompson, the Librarian.

Falkirk Town Council on October 2nd resolved to purchase the house and grounds of Schawfield, Hope Street, Falkirk. The ground will be given as a free site for the Public Library and Reading-room, to build which Mr. Andrew Carnegie gave £2,500, and the site on which the house is built will be retained for future use by the town.

THE Reading Room of the Passmore Edwards Library at **East Ham** will be opened on Sundays, from 3 to 9 p.m.

THE **Oxford** Public Library authorities propose to set aside a special reading room for boys of four years of age and upwards.

THE question of the Sunday Opening of the **Leyton** Public Library is again coming forward, and a motion has been made in the Urban District Council that it should be opened from 6 to 9 during the winter months.

THE Free Libraries Committee of the **Accrington** Town Council have recommended that the offer of the Art Room of the Mechanics' Institution for the purposes of a Free Library should be accepted, and that the east side of the Market Hall gallery shall be converted into a public reading room.

Penzance Corporation has decided to erect a brass tablet in the Free Library to perpetuate the memory of the late Rev. Wm. Colenso and his benefactions to the poor of the town. The frame is to be of oak, and a copy of the tablet on vellum is to be placed in the council chamber.

A COMMITTEE of the **Blackrock** Urban Council (Dublin) has been appointed to consider and report as to adopting the Public Library (Ireland) Act.

A SCHEME is on foot in **Greenock** to convert the old Post-office Buildings into a Free Library, and at a meeting of Greenock Improvement Trust plans were submitted, showing a scheme whereby accommodation could be made for 30,000 books. Seats will be provided for eighty sitters in the Reading-room and for twenty-five in the Reference Library.

THE **Duke of Devonshire**, speaking at New Mills, Derbyshire, on September 30th, on the occasion of the opening of extensions to the Free Library and to the Technical School, said that in these days, when education was free and also compulsory, and when a great deal of education beyond elementary education was provided at something considerably under cost price, he thought it would be very poor economy which would grudge the cost of providing libraries which would give to the people the means of applying, and of deriving full enjoyment from, the education by which we now set so much store.

MR. **Andrew Carnegie** has been very prominently before the public during the past month in connection with his benefactions to various Public Libraries. He has given more money to the parishes of **Creich** (Sutherland), which contains Bonar Bridge village, and **Tarbat** (Ross), which contains the village of Portmahomack, where Mrs. Carnegie laid the foundation-stone of a new building on October 5th. Both these parishes have adopted the Public Library (Scotland) Act. On October

11th Mr. Carnegie received the freedom of the Burgh of **Kirkcaldy** in connection with the opening of the Adam Smith and Beveridge Memorial Halls; and on October 13th he had conferred upon him the freedom of the Burgh of **Dumfries** in connection with his gift for a library building for Dumfries and Maxwelltown. It has been also announced that Mr. Carnegie has given £1,000 towards the new Public Library building for **Wolverhampton**. The following list of some of Mr. Carnegie's more important donations to libraries will no doubt be interesting to many librarians:—

Carnegie Institute, Pittsburg...	...	...	£600,000
Carnegie Institute, Allegheny	...	...	65,000
Homestead Institute	...	...	100,000
Braddock Institute	...	...	100,000
Duquesne Institute	...	...	100,000
Pittsburg Observatory	...	...	4,000
Carnegie Laboratory, New York	...	...	10,000
Bellevue Medical College, New York	...	...	15,200
Birmingham University	...	...	50,000
Stevens Institute, Hoboken, New Jersey	...	...	10,000
University of Pennsylvania	...	...	20,000
Dunfermline Baths	...	...	10,000
Dunfermline Technical School	...	...	12,000
Library, Fairfield, Iowa	...	...	8,000
„ Greenberg	...	...	12,000
„ Johnston	...	...	60,000
„ Carnegie	...	...	42,000
„ Washington	...	...	50,000
„ Pennsylvania State College	...	...	20,000
„ Edinburgh	...	...	50,000
„ Dunfermline	...	...	8,000
„ Ayr	...	...	10,000
„ Stirling	...	...	6,000
„ Aberdeen	...	...	1,000
„ Jedburgh	...	...	2,000
„ Inverness	...	...	3,000
„ Grangemouth	...	...	1,100
„ Wick	...	...	1,000
„ Peterhead	...	...	1,000
„ Dumfries	...	...	10,000
„ Banff	...	...	1,000
„ Portmahomack	...	...	600
„ Creich	...	...	1,500
„ Keighley	...	...	10,000

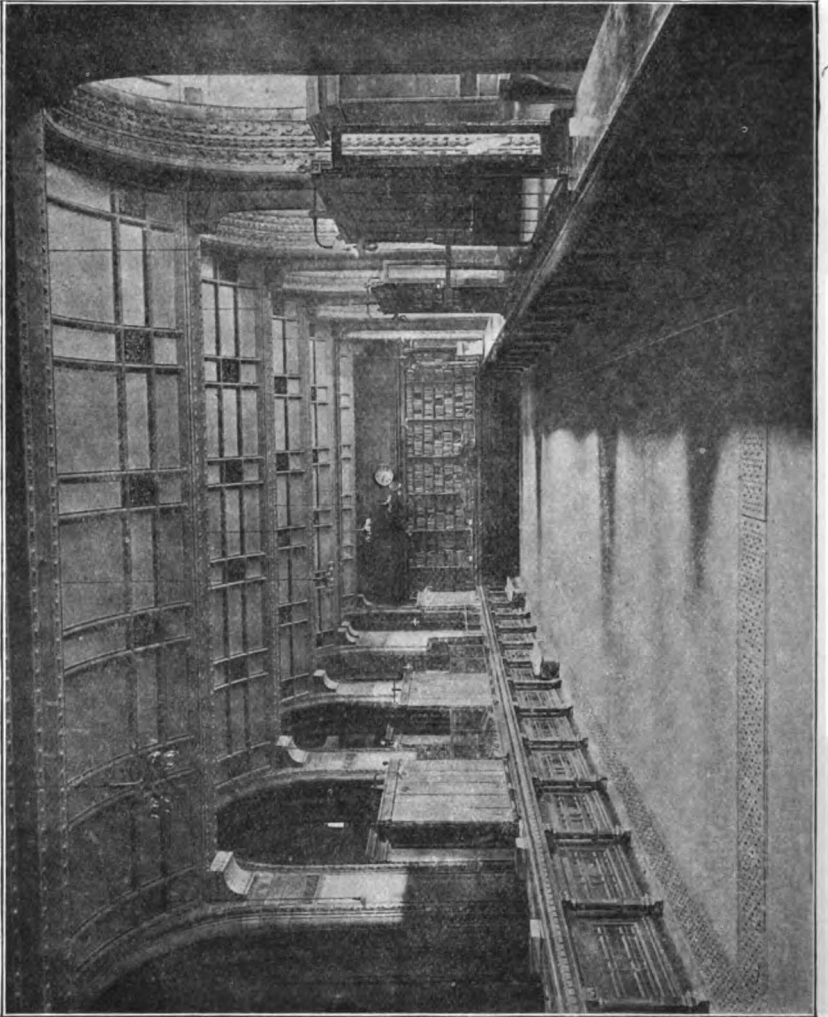
—a total of £1,371,000.

THE catalogue of the “Bibliotheca Jacksoniana,” compiled under the direction of Mr. **Archibald Sparke**, City Librarian, of Carlisle, is nearly completed. The collection numbers over 5,000 local books, prints, photographs, and autographs, and forms almost a complete bibliography of Cumberland, Westmoreland, and North Lancashire.

THE syllabus of lectures, concerts, &c., in connection with the **Bishopsgate Institute** recently issued, is a document of considerable interest, and again shows much variety, both in the lecture department and the classes.

The Free Library, a monthly magazine and readers' guide to the Middlesborough Public Library, was commenced in August last, and promises to be an interesting addition to these useful little magazines. It is edited by Mr. **Baker Hudson**, the Librarian, and contains notes on books and authors, in addition to the usual lists of accessions.

THE 29th Report of the Free Public Libraries of the city of **Leeds**, for



LEEDS PUBLIC LIBRARY : LENDING DEPARTMENT.

the year ending March 25th, 1899, is a most interesting and nicely illustrated document. Its chief feature is a series of six views of the central library building, of which, by permission, we reproduce one of the interiors of the Lending Library. Mr. T. W. Hand, the Librarian, reports a stock of 194,177 volumes, of which 57,428 are for Reference, and a total issue from all departments of 943,406 volumes. Female assistants are now employed, owing to the difficulties experienced in obtaining suitable male assistants to fill staff vacancies. The branch library system is being extended. Numerous tables show in full detail the work of all the departments of this large and progressive library.

Mr. **John Ballinger**, of the Cardiff Public Libraries, is endeavouring to obtain for publication in his *Public Library Journal*, a vote from the children attending the school and other libraries in the borough, on the books they like best. A circular with suitable forms has been issued. The *Journal* maintains its high literary character, and the October number is full of items of local interest.

THE Free Public Library of **Reading**, in conjunction with the School Board, have formulated a "scheme for providing small circulating libraries to the Reading Board Schools," which has been printed. Our space will not permit of us printing this interesting scheme in full, but, no doubt, any librarian can obtain a copy on application to Mr. W. H. **Greenhough**, the Librarian.

THE "Half-hour Talks" have been resumed at **Croydon** Public Library, and the first talk of the season was given by Alderman Foss, on October 4th, his subject being "Lord Macaulay." The *Reader's Index* for September-October contains a reading list on Municipal Government, and continues to be the fullest and best annotated list of the kind published in the United Kingdom. If one may venture to make a suggestion for improvement, we should plead for a little more balance in the notes. Four and five-line notes to novels of fourth-rate merit, and single words to strong historical novels like Barr's "Countess Tekla," is rather out of proportion. By the way, "Walworth" is hardly "East-end life," if the London district is intended.

A DOUBLE report comes from **Tynemouth**, and is a record of great progress. The whole of the library has been reorganised and recatalogued. A "Chivers" Indicator has been installed, instead of the old ledger-charging system, and in other respects the library has been completely altered. The library now contains 25,400 volumes, being a reduction of 3,243 since last report, owing to obsolete and worn-out books being largely withdrawn.

Mr. **Andrew Keogh**, who left Newcastle-upon-Tyne Public Library last year to take up an appointment with a Chicago bookselling house, has been made librarian of the Linonian and Brothers' Library of Yale University.

THE **Hornsey** Public Library was opened, in its fine central building, by Lord Halsbury, the Lord Chancellor, on October 21st, in the presence of a large assemblage of local celebrities. Lord Halsbury, in his address declaring the library open, dwelt principally on fiction reading, and condemned the writing and circulation of the *décadent* type. Mr. D. Christie Murray, the novelist, who was present, spoke on the same theme, and strongly advised the reading of solid books instead of novels. As he very happily put it, it was necessary, when furnishing forth the library table, to remember that fiction was but the condiments—the salt, mustard or pepper, which only tickled the palate without satisfying appetite. In a future number we shall give a description, with views, of this building, the first of a series of four already planned for Hornsey.

WE regret to announce that on the morning of October 23rd, the **West Ham** Technical Institute was almost completely destroyed by fire, and that the Public Library, which forms part of the same block, suffered rather severely. But for the energy and promptitude of Mr. **Cotgreave**, the Librarian, who lives close by, and was aroused about 3 o'clock in the early morning, it is more than probable greater damage would have been done. However, thanks to Mr. Cotgreave's efforts, the library was saved from very serious damage, and many of the most valuable books was rescued.

THE great pressure upon our space has compelled us to hold over a number of important letters and articles on topics of interest. These will be published in our next number.

IT has just been announced that a new edition of "**Greenwood's Library Year Book**" is about to be issued, to commemorate the jubilee of the Library Movement, 1850-1900. Librarians will be interested in this fact, as the need for an up-to-date edition of the Year-Book has been felt for some time.



SELECT LISTS OF BOOKS ON SPECIAL SUBJECTS.

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The Works of ROBERT BURNS, with Notes on Editions and Editors.

By J. C. EWING, *Assistant Librarian, Mitchell Library, Glasgow.*

*The * denotes works which are indispensable to a Public Library.*

- *Poems, chiefly in the Scottish dialect, by Robert Burns. Kilmarnock. 1786
8vo. [Reprinted 1867-1886.]
- Second Edition. Edinburgh. 1787. 8vo.
- Third Edition. London. 1787. 8vo.
- Second Edition, considerably enlarged. Edinburgh. 1793. 2 vols. 8vo.
- *—— New Edition, considerably enlarged. Edinburgh. 1794. 2 vols. 8vo.

These five titles constitute a complete enumeration of "author's editions" of the verse of Robert Burns, with which, of course, the Public Reference Library would do well to begin. (A "first Burns" is not within the reach of the rate-supported library, but the book is easily accessible—and is sufficient for all purposes save that of the bibliographer—in the *facsimiles* of 1867-1886. The 1877 "Statue edition"—a reprint of that of 1786, though smaller in size and different in pagination—is also useful as showing variations in the text.) The list makes a very meagre show. Its weakness lies not in the want of material, but in the non-publication of the material that was afterwards entrusted to Burns's earliest editor, Dr. James Currie. We are told by Maria Riddel, in a letter written after his death, that Burns had contemplated a revised edition of his *Poems*. Regarding her last interview with the poet, Mrs. Riddel wrote:—"Burns shewed great concern about the care of his literary fame and particularly the publication of his posthumous works. He said he was well aware that his death would occasion some noise, and that every scrap of his writing would be revived against him to the injury of his future reputation; that letters and verses written with unguarded and improper freedom, and which he earnestly wished to have buried in oblivion, would be handed about by idle vanity or malevolence, when no dread of his resentment would restrain them or prevent the censures of shrill-tongued malice or the insidious sarcasms of envy from pouring forth all their venom to blast his fame. He lamented that he had written many epigrams on persons against whom he entertained no enmity and whose characters he should be sorry to wound; and many indifferent poetical pieces which he feared would now, with all their imperfections on their head, be thrust upon the world. On this account, he deeply regretted having deferred to put his papers in a state of arrangement, as he was now quite incapable of the exertion." We know, too, from a letter of Burns's to George Thomson (July, 1793), that the matter gave him much concern:—" . . . I intend

publishing a Collection, on a cheap plan, of all the songs I have written for you, the [*Scots Musical*] *Museum*, &c.—at least of all the songs of which I wish to be called the Author. I do not propose this so much in the way of emolument as to do justice to my Muse, lest I should be blamed for trash I never saw or be defrauded by other claimants of what is justly my own.”

It is important to read these notes in view of the actual state of affairs. The poet's fear has been justified, those “many indifferent poetical pieces” *have* been “thrust upon the world” and he *has* been blamed for “trash he never saw.” No poet, I believe, has been more edited—or should I have said over-edited?—than Burns; none certainly has been more unfortunate in his editors. Even yet, a full century after his death, he waits a biographer. His “text,” too, has not been respected as it ought. Faulty in the pages of Currie, it has gone from bad to worse. Dates have been altered; passages have been suppressed, and others interpolated: generally, too, without any indication that such has been done. If the poet, and not Currie, had seen the first collected edition through the press, we should have had the ideal text of Burns.

In his introduction to *The printed works of Robert Burns a Bibliography in outline* (1899), Mr. Craibe Angus says: “.....In bulk of material, if we include acting editions, translations, essays and the like, Shakespeare in a period of 276 years may out-number Burns, but in the number of editions (apart from the acting editions and the ana) Burns, with a circulation of 930 editions.....takes (in the shorter period of 113 years) the foremost place among British authors.....”

It will hardly be believed that in all these 930 editions of Burns there is not one which can lay claim to be the ideal edition. On the face of it that looks a remarkably rash statement, but nevertheless it is true. Not one of Burns's editors has given us such an edition as the poet himself, as revealed in his prose, would have approved. Particularly has the glamour of the phrase “never before published” over-mastered them, with the result that those “pieces local or unfinished-fragments, the effusion of a poetical moment, and bagatelles strung in rhyme simply *pour passer le temps*” have been included in his published works, despite their author's express desire that they “should never see the light.” It is to his earliest editor that the chief blame must be attached that such is the state of affairs. Dr. Currie had an occasion such as falls to the lot of few men, an opportunity which has not been afforded to any other editor of Burns. That he did not rise to the occasion is Burns's, his, and our, misfortune. “A thing of shreds and patches,” inadequate, untrustworthy, unsatisfactory in every way—space will not permit a catalogue of the faults of this editor and biographer—Currie's *Works of Burns* (1800), stands a monument of warning to editors. It is the more remarkable when we find that, writing (1796) on the question of editing “the remains of poor Burns,” he had said: “It is a national concern that this be done with care and skill.” We fear

Currie's "care and skill" have not been commensurate with his desire, and one cannot help but echo Lamb's wish—expressed only a few months after the publication of Currie's work—that "the cobbler had stuck to his last."

But Currie is not the only editor who should never have tackled Burns; not a few of his successors are blameworthy. I do not propose, however, to say anything at present on the shortcomings of Cromek, Cunningham, Hogg or Chambers as editors of Burns. I would only draw attention to what has been said, without qualification, to be "the finest tribute ever paid to the memory of our greatest poet." I mean *The Centenary Burns* (1896-7). Burns has at last received an editing worthy of his reputation as "the proud possessor of an exquisite literary gift," and I am on safe ground when I say that never before has his poetry been so carefully and systematically collated with the MSS. as has now been done by Messrs. W. E. Henley and T. F. Henderson. (At the same time, I sometimes wish that Mr. Henley's exaggerated phrases—which, on occasion, are loose and capable of various interpretations—had, like Carlyle's essay, been edited by a judicial mind such as Jeffrey's.) *The Centenary Burns* may not be the final edition of his poetry, but, compared with existing editions, it is beyond all doubt the high-water mark of the literary editorship of Burns, and stands high among the standard works of the century. One regrets that Messrs. Henley and Henderson have not seen their way to treat in the same scholarly fashion the prose of Burns, for it must not be forgotten that he wrote "a prose which would shame no man," and which Scottish literature can ill afford not to have set forth at its best.

The Centenary Burns is the edition for the student; it is for the reference rather than the lending department. If the editors could see their way to reduce their work to, say, three volumes foolscap-octavo size, I venture to say it would take the place of the two-volume Scott Douglas edition—by no means an ugly book, and, after all, the best Burns for the general reader. Such an edition would be "a boon and a blessing to men," and would ultimately supplant the "pot-boiler" Burns, against which librarians cannot be too much on their guard. The market is flooded with editions of the works of Burns—he used to be (I do not doubt he still is) one of "the booksellers' best friends, the four B's"—nearly all of which claim to be "complete and cheap." I do not deny that they are cheap but, on examination, the pretension to completeness fades into air. Not only are many of Burns's verses omitted; the worse side of the case is that there are placed to his credit poems and songs which he did not write: "trash which he never saw." This "fathering" began with Currie, and has been continued through the entire century, even to *The Centenary Burns* and the "revised" edition of Robert Chambers's *Life and Works of Burns*. Many of these pieces have been "nailed to the counter" as spurious by successive writers upon Burns, but that does not prevent their still finding their way into the "pot-boiler" editions. And so in these editions we get the "bastards" focussed, and a more disreputable family it would be hard to find. Let me illustrate.

In 1896, in honour (*sic*) of "Burns' Centenary," Messrs. Frederick Warne & Co., of London and New York, issued *Robert Burns' Poetical Works*, in a volume which styled itself "National Edition." Included in this book—from which, by the way, the editor has discreetly omitted his name—are certain "Verses to My Bed." Years ago it was pointed out that Burns could not possibly have been author of these "verses," for they appeared in *The Gentleman's Magazine* some four months only after the famous "blast o' Janwar' win'." Here, too, we find stanzas "To the Owl"—long since known to have been penned by another than Burns; "The Vowels," "The Hermit" and "Lincluden Abbey," for none of which is there the least reason for attributing to Burns. Included here also are the songs of Burns, not to mention others than Burns. Among them is a "Mary," which, as it was published in 1774, was not written by Burns. "Shelah O'Neil"—rank Irish—the work of one of the Boswells of Auchinleck, also finds a place in the "National Edition." "Evan Banks," by Helen Maria Williams, another "To Mary," "Katherine Jaffray" and a score more also are given. Edition after edition might be adduced in evidence, with the same poems, the same songs, given as "pure Burns." An edition issued (1895) from the house of Messrs. W. P. Nimmo, Hay and Mitchell—alas, in Edinburgh!—is also culprit in this respect. So also is an edition, one of a series, "The Best Hundred Books" (as selected by Sir John Lubbock), issued (1893) by Messrs. George Routledge and Sons. Another, probably the most notorious, of the "pot-boilers" is a pretentious, two-volume imperial-octavo "National Edition of the works of Robert Burns... Edited by William Wallace, M.A." (London: Cassell, Petter, Galpin & Co.). The journalistic editor of this "National" edition, having "edited" one Burns, "revised" a second and "elucidated" a third—the words are his own—has now budded into the "chief authority" in matters Burns, as the words of his publishers inform us. A feature of this edition is that it makes an attempt to eliminate from Burns those whose work has been erroneously ascribed to him. To this end a division of the first volume is entitled "Pieces of Doubtful Authenticity." It is one of the many faults of the work that several pieces included there are not the least doubtful; it is another that several undoubtedly spurious poems are given in the volumes, though *not* among the "pieces of doubtful authenticity." One may be pardoned asking this "editor" on what grounds he admits as the work of Burns the "Verses to my Bed"—published, as I have said, in King George the Second's "hindmost year but ane"—or why he persists in foisting upon Burns "Lincluden Abbey," "Prayer to Mary," "Evan Banks," and others—too numerous to mention. It is not often that a writer throws his work into the melting-pot. Yet that is what this editor has done. He has no truer critic than himself. To do him justice, it is doubtful if ever any editor so entirely repudiated himself as he has done. It is only necessary to quote—from his "Preface" to this "National" edition—the remarkable statement that Currie's *Life of Burns* is "universally acknowledged to be the standard estimate of his life," to understand how completely Mr. Wallace has "rounded," and

thrown overboard Currie and the other false gods—the heroes of his former idolatry.

“ Thus bad begins,
But worse remains behind.”

In many editions, professedly complete, Burns has been “ bowdlerised ”—bowdlerised, too, as no poet before or since has been. One case, the most impudent outrage of all, I cannot pass over, particularly when the work is countenanced by the professedly “ classic ” Clarendon Press. I confess that—with many others—I do not like “ selections,” although I can quite understand the desirability of having such—of *some* authors. I do not mind much if an editor makes a selection, provided he tells us it is a selection. But when he takes upon himself to interfere with the text of his author—to alter words and phrases in, and to omit stanzas from, his poems—one must protest. Such is the manner in which Burns is treated in *Selected Poems*. Edited by J. Logie Robertson. (Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1889.) I do not doubt the editor’s good intentions, but there is a limit to all things. To begin with, the book is minus “ The Jolly Beggars.” Scott without “ Ivanhoe ” would not be half as bad. Again, in “ Scotch Drink,” twelve stanzas, at various parts of the poem, are omitted, in most cases for reasons which are not apparent. In one verse the sole offence seems to be Burns’s sublime threat to

“ drink Pitt’s health in auld Nanse Tannock’s
Nine times a week.”

The next poem—following the order of the Kilmarnock edition—is the “ Prayer to the Scotch Representatives ” to

“ echo thro’ Saint Stephen’s wa’s
Auld Scotland’s wrangs.”

Again, two verses are left out, without reason assigned. From “ The Holy Fair ” the last stanza is omitted ; the “ Address to the Deil ” wants two verses ; “ Hallowe’en ” lacks stanza 6 and two lines of 16. I say nothing of some decidedly original readings to be found in the pages of this *Selected poems*. It is not so much that the selection is not representative—how could it be without that “ puissant and splendid production,” “ The Jolly Beggars ? ” It is that, without apology, without explanation, without even a hint—except a line in the Editor’s “ Introduction ”—that such is being done, stanzas are bodily omitted from the text—and stanzas, too, which have not been excluded from even “ Drawing-room ” editions. One wishes that Mr. J. Logie Robertson’s studies had extended to the prose works of his author, where he would read what Burns wrote (April 1793) to George Thomson :—“ . . . Ramsay, like every other poet, has not been always equally happy in his pieces ; still I cannot approve of taking such liberties with an author as Mr. Walker has done with ‘ The last time I came o’er the moor.’ Let the poet, if he chooses, take up the idea of another and work it into a piece of his own ; but to mangle the works of the poor bard whose tuneful tongue is now mute for ever in the dark and narrow house, by Heaven, ’twould be sacrilege ! I grant that

Mr. Walker's version is an improvement, but I know Mr. Walker well and esteem him much ; let him mend the song as a Highlander mended his gun : he gave it a new stock, a new lock, and a new barrel." That is sufficient answer to him who would bowdlerise or amend the work of those who, after all has been said, remain their masters.

These notes might be greatly extended ; but perhaps enough has been said to convince "chiefs" that too great care cannot be exercised in the selection, for their Lending Departments, of an edition of Burns' *Poems*. That they should be careful—that they should not do aught that would tend to lessen that reputation of which Burns himself was so jealous—is no more than justice to him who for all time coming will be the "poet of humanity," the lyricist of the world.

[The List of Editions, &c., recommended is held over till next month.]



LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS.

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THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

IT was announced at the Manchester meeting, too late for most members, that in 1900 the Library Association would meet at Bristol. The invitation was received by Mr. Norris Mathews, the Librarian, late on Friday evening, September 8th, and could not be made generally known. It ran as follows:—"The Lord Mayor and Libraries Committee will be delighted to welcome the Library Association at Bristol, next year." Many extensions are in course of development at Bristol, such as a new central library, and some important branches, and although it would have been a great advantage for librarians to see them completed, there is still a wealth of interesting sights in Bristol to gratify the most exacting. Mr. Mathews assures us that the members of the L. A. may anticipate a hearty welcome and a good time generally. May we venture to express the hope that some attention will be bestowed on the practical needs of librarians, by the institution of an exhibition of appliances, and that some attempt will be made to procure short papers on which some profitable discussion can be based?



BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

THE Fourth Annual Meeting of the Birmingham and District Library Association was held in Birmingham, on Friday, October 20th, and was attended by representatives of most of the Free Public Libraries in the district. The members visited the National Telephone Exchange, the Showroom and Works of Messrs.

Elkington and Co., and the Reference Library, where an interesting exhibition of some of the rare and valuable books in the library was arranged in the chief librarian's room. The inspection of these treasures afforded great pleasure to visiting members, and it was a source of regret that the time did not allow of a more minute examination. On the invitation of the chief librarian (Mr. A. Capel Shaw), the members adjourned to his residence for tea, and there held their meeting. Mr. Shaw was elected president of the association for the ensuing year, Councillor H. Guest becoming vice president on vacating the chair, and the Hon. Secretary (Mr. R. K. Dent), and Treasurer (Mr. W. Downing), were re-elected for the fourth time. Conversation ensued on library topics, and it was decided to hold meetings during the coming year at Wolverhampton, West Bromwich; Smethwick, and Lichfield.

LIBRARY ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION.

THE Inaugural Meeting of the Fifth Session took place at Stoke Newington. Under the able guidance of Mr. G. Preece, Librarian, members were enabled to inspect the library, where the methods of work were noted with interest, while the very notable collection of local views was much admired. From the library members proceeded to one of the many houses in Stoke Newington with literary interest—that formerly occupied by the father of Isaac Disraeli. The present occupant of this most interesting house, Mr. Wynne E. Baxter, J.P., D.L., one of the Library Commissioners of Stoke Newington, had invited the association to view his collection of the various editions of the works of John Milton, and had kindly consented to read a paper on the first edition of "Paradise Lost." After hospitable entertainment by Mrs. and Miss Baxter, many early, rare, and beautiful editions of Milton were examined; and in the drawing-room, with Prebendary Shelford (Chairman of the Library Commissioners) presiding, Mr. Baxter gave a most interesting address, illustrated with a series of lantern slides specially prepared by Mr. Frank Baxter, which will be printed in full in the November *Assistant*. Sir E. Verney moved the vote of thanks, and Mr. C. T. Davis seconded, and Mr. Baxter and Prebendary Shelford replied.

It had been hoped that Mr. Thomas Greenwood would have been able to be present at this meeting in the parish of which he was formerly a Library Commissioner, but an engagement in America prevented his being present to hear the results of the "Greenwood 1899" prize essays scheme, which was as follows:—

SENIOR.

Subject I.—"How I would organise a Library.

First Prize: G. E. Roebuck (*St. George-in-the-East*).

Second Prize: J. A. Stephens (*Liverpool*).

Highly Commended: C. Whitwell (*West Ham*).

Subject II.—“How to deal with books.”

First Prize: W. B. Thorne (*St. Bride's Institute*).

Second Prize: J. W. Brown (*Shoreditch*).

JUNIORS.

Subject I.—“The every-day work of an assistant.”

First Prize: T. W. Glazier (*Streatham*).

Second Prize: *W. C. Sayers (*Bournemouth*).

Highly Commended: S. G. Mattocks (*Kensington*).

Subject II.—“My professional studies.”

First Prize: W. C. Sayers (*Bournemouth*).

Second Prize: S. G. Mattocks (*Kensington*).

Highly Commended: F. Parsons (*St. George-in-the-East*).

* *Note*.—As. W. C. Sayers has obtained the first prize in the other junior subject, the value of this prize (£1 5s.) will be offered in a new competition as a special “Bournemouth” prize for junior assistants.

At the November meeting, at St. Bride's Institute, E.C., the prize essays in Subject II. *Senior* will be read and discussed, and at later meetings all the prize essays will be read in turn.

At the December meeting at St. George-in-the-East, Mr. J. Passmore Edwards has kindly consented to preside.

The Second Annual Dinner will take place at Temple Bar, on the 29th November. Tickets, price 3s. 6d.

B. DYER, *Hon. Sec.*,

Old Brompton Road, S.W.

N.W. SUMMER SCHOOL.

AWARD OF PRIZES FOR BEST REPORTS.

- I. J. H. Swann (*Manchester Reference*).
- II. A. Hair (*Tynemouth*).



THE LIBRARY ASSISTANT QUESTION.

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MANCHESTER—AND AFTER?

By B. L. DYER.

An important debate and division took place at the L.A. Meeting in Manchester, and there seems to have been some confusion in the minds of many of the speakers, and in the library world generally, as to what the division was about.

Upon a certain question there has been a conflict of opinion between the Council of the Library Association and the Council of its N.W. Branch, and in certain work different policies have been adopted in Lancashire and in London. The L. A. Council “recommended” Lancashire to discard its deliberate policy and adopt the London one. With the help of the other branches, the N.W. successfully rebutted

this attempt to destroy its internal autonomy, and upon a division procured the deletion of the recommendation. During the division the question upon which the difference had arisen was somewhat hotly debated, and a mistaken idea seems to be abroad, that because the Council has been defeated in forcing its own policy on Lancashire, London must now adopt the Lancashire policy. But no such thing—the matter remains *in statu quo*.

This being the case, it may be interesting to clear the air of many misunderstandings that have arisen, and to attempt to formulate the question upon which the difference of policy arises.

The flights of oratoric and journalistic fancy have titled the question in many ways, and have clouded it with more or less fanciful similes to the burning political questions of the hour, on which the minds of men are biassed by their political convictions, or by the political convictions of the editor of their daily paper. But we may dismiss all these as wide of the mark.

Equally we may dismiss the aspersion that the question has been raised by library assistants to protect their vested interests, and that in the interests of the libraries they must be crushed. At Manchester the assistants had no part nor lot in the matter. With the exception of that honoured ex-assistant Dr. Garnett, librarians alone spoke, and the division lists will reveal how few assistants voted. The whole thing was an issue between librarians, and any attempt to wrest it into a clashing of the interests of libraries and their officers is to be deprecated. Nothing can be worse than for the idea to be inculcated that the three interests of library, librarian, and library assistant, are not one and the same. The moment that officers allow the interests of the library to be subordinated to their own they are incumbrances, and must go; on the other hand the interests of the library demand that the best officers that can be procured for the salaries should be obtained.

And here is the crux of the situation. Who are the best officers that a library can have? So far back as 1891, Mr. Greenwood, on p. 357 of his "Public Libraries," advanced a statement that the best officers were those who had had practical experience, and that librarianship, like every other calling, required a preliminary period of training. He further went on to suggest that out of past experience was building up a professional tradition of value to the public, and says plainly that one who has been trained in the work will probably make a better librarian than one who has failed in some other profession, and desires a sure salary, for duties of which he is practically ignorant.

If once it is granted that the trained librarian is better fitted than the untrained, the additional value of practical training must be admitted. It cannot be gainsaid that the man of actual experience, who has seen the pretty plans that looked well on paper, sink into dismal failures, or develop into useful successes, is better than he who has never actually practised! Is the theorist not far more likely to blindly stumble into the old mistakes, and into all the proven failures than he who has seen their faults and learnt to rectify them?

But the Library Association, as a body, has not seen its way to affirm that there is anything in librarianship that justifies a claim for it that it is a separate calling, requiring a special training; and is prepared to state that any man of average general education may adopt it without special preparation, save the attendance at a few classes in theory! The Council goes out of its way to extend an educational ægis over the untrained men, and seeks to offer a haven to all the failures of the professions, if only they will pay fees to be taught. At Manchester the Secretary said that what the N. W. advocated and did, "was a deliberate attempt to boycott all intelligent candidates for librarianship," and this in view of practical students who can gain 100 per cent. of marks in these theoretical examinations! By the same reason, Mr. Guppy, because he was at Sion, was necessarily less intelligent than any butcher, or baker, or candlestick maker, who desired a post at Rylands! By the same reason all the men who hold posts in the libraries of the smaller towns should refrain from making application for any higher posts—for the very fact of having acquired some experience, makes them of necessity not "intelligent candidates"! But if actual work in a library be productive of intellectual decadence, why trouble at all about the education of candidates for librarianship?

The Library Association is the only body that holds a charter and may issue diplomas in librarianship. Are these diplomas to have the same value as the similar diplomas of the other examining professional bodies, and are they to mean that the possessors are men of culture, with sound education, specially trained in the theory of their profession, and actually acquainted with the technicalities and practical difficulties? Or are these diplomas to mean as little as membership of the L. A. now does—the mere payment of an annual fee upon a display of an interest in libraries or in librarianship, with, perchance, additional fees for attendance at classes, and a pass in a little crammed theory?

It behoves every professional member of the Library Association to consider well what answer he will give to this question when it is asked of him—and whether he is going to do his best to help build up and make permanent the calling of which he is perhaps the pioneer of his district, by creating professional precedent, and professional *esprit-de-corps* in the same way that the older professions have done, or whether librarianship shall go on in the same haphazard way that elementary pedagogics did till a drastic system of payment by results paved the way for certification and registration of qualified practitioners?

It behoves every non-librarian member of the L. A. to consider whether the true interests of the libraries do not demand of every candidate for librarianship a fair general education as well as a minimum of specific education combined with mechanical efficiency, such as is demanded from every other salaried public officer, or whether librarians alone of the chief officers of our boroughs and corporations, shall learn their duties after appointment?



NOTABLE LIBRARIES.

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UNIVERSITY LIBRARY OF ABERDEEN.

By JOHN W. WISHART, B.Sc.

ABERDEEN, the "Granite City," the "Silver City by the Sea," the great headquarters of the grey granite trade, and one of the busiest and most influential mercantile cities in Scotland, has a name which is known throughout the civilized world, and a fame which has penetrated to nearly every quarter of the habitable globe. The writing of all that might legitimately be written concerning this remarkable, and in many cases unique, community of "hard-headed Aberdonians" (as they are usually styled), would fill many large volumes, and as we have neither the time nor the space for the compilation of such a work of history and description as this would imply, our readers must be content with an unpretentious historical survey of what is of more immediate interest to them, viz. : the chief libraries belonging to the city of Aberdeen. These are two in number—the Library of the University and the Public Library.

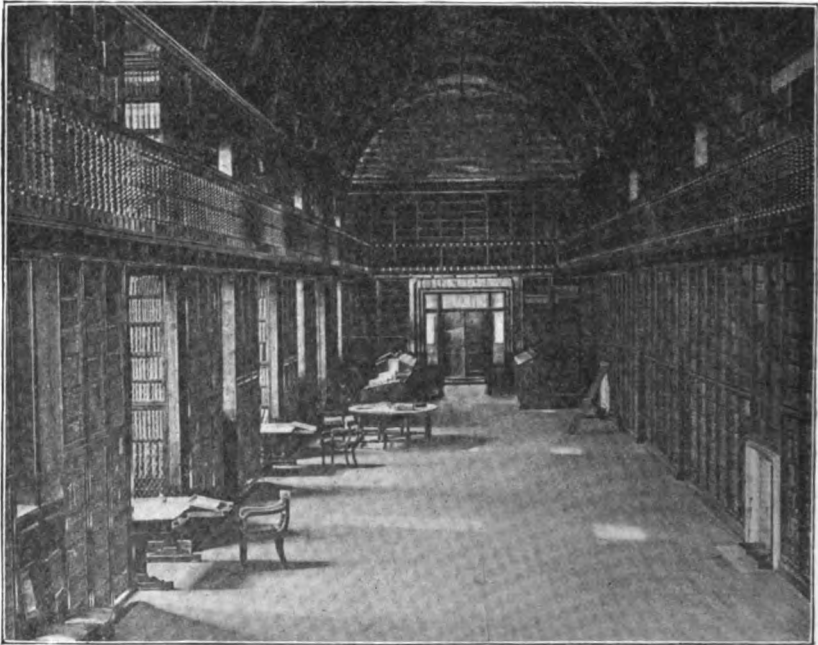
I.—THE LIBRARY OF THE UNIVERSITY.

Prior to the 2nd of August, 1858, there were two colleges in Aberdeen—King's College in the Old Town, and Marischal College in the New Town. Each College possessed a Library of its own. On the date already noted, Royal assent was given to an Act of Parliament intitled "An Act to make provision for the better government and discipline of the Universities of Scotland. . . . and for the union of the two Universities and Colleges of Aberdeen," and on 30th June, 1860, the two Colleges were united and incorporated into one institution, under the title of the "University of Aberdeen." Synonymous with this change, the Libraries of the two Colleges were united to form the Library of the University.

King's College Buildings, built in 1500, are situated in College Bounds, Old Aberdeen. They form a group of buildings very unique and ancient in their architecture. The General Library of the University is housed here, and entrance to it is obtained by means of the door facing the main gate. Many historical facts of great interest connected with the Libraries of the two Colleges, were brought to light some six years ago by the present able and energetic Librarian, Mr. P. J. Anderson, M.A., and a brief resumé of these, we feel sure, will be appreciated by all Librarians.

Taking the history of King's College Library first, we find that, from 1532 to 1545, "Bishop Stewart built the librarie hous, and with a number of bookes furnisht the same." On December 9th, 1634, Dr. Davidstone, resident in Paris, was requested to secure "ane just and perfyte written extract and double of the rights and priviledges of the University of Paris." He sent "ane printed book in French language intituled 'Priviledges of the Universitie of Paris,'" and was

ordered "to caus subscribe ane authentik copie of the evidentis and registers. and to bestow therupon tua hundreth franks or thereby, if it may not be had cheaper." About a month earlier than this a very peculiar rule was adopted by the College authorities. The rule ran thus: "The said day, it is ordainet be the rectour and memberis that the keeper of the bibliotheck sall, about the tyme of Michaelmese yeerlie, upone fourtie-aucht houris advertisement, delyver the key of the bibliotheck to the rector of the Universitie, that he may employ tuo or thrie off the memberis for visitting the said bibliotheck to sie giff all the buikis and instrumentis belonging thereto be present in the librarie *ipsa corpora* ; with certificatioun against the said keeper,



ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY: KING'S COLLEGE LIBRARY.

that in caice aney be amissing without and nocht within the dooris of the said librarie at that tyme, he sal be liable not onlie to furnische ane wther buik of the samen kynde wpon his awen expenssis, bot also to pay for his negligence the sowme of ten merkis for ilk buik that bees wanting as said is, by the pryce of the samen." On December 20th, 1639, it is stated that on "The said day the Rectour and memberis have ordainet that the Keeper of the Librarie sall make the Librarie patent twyse in the weik, viz. : Tuysday and Fryday, betwixt ane and tua houris

afternoone ; quharin if he failzie, he sall pay tuo merkis *toties quoties* to the common procurator to the behoof of the Librarie." In 1640, Dr. Reid bequeathed "to the colledge of Auld Aberdiene" all his "medicinall bookes," while on January 26th, 1642, the Librarian was ordered "not to len any book of the said Librarie to any persone without the said colledge not being a member, bot the speciall consent of the said principall had and obtaienet thereto." In 1643, Sir F. Gordoun presented "at his return to Scotland after threttie years peregrination, 42 fair volumes, most pairt physicall." In 1647, "It is also ordained that Mr. J. L., Mr. G. M., Mr. Patrick Sandilands (who is appoynted Bibliothecar for this yeir), tak paines to get in good order all the books of the librarie, and to place them in most convenient manner that so ane formall catalogue of them may be drawn up in and they to report their diligence betwixt and the first of July nixt." On June 16th, 1665, it is noted that on "The said day anent the visitatione of the Bibliothek, the visitors did visit according to the ordour, and did find the second volume of Becon's Theologie wanting. It is declared that Mr. W. Johnstoun did send the same to Mr. Johne Rowe, younger, as he alledged by order from Mr. A. Massie. It is ordered that Mr. W. Johnstoun writte for the said book to young Mr. Johne Rowe as for all wthers wanting which he shall not instruct to have been wanting befor he entered to the charge of Bibliothecarius. It is ordered that Mr. Andrews sall be answerable for them, as also it is statute and ordainit that the present Bibliothecarius draw op ane new catalogue of the quohall books, and that the samen shall be in readines betwixt and the twenty day of this instant June to be exhibite to the rector, principall and remanent members, and to be subseryved." On February 4th, 1717, "The Masters appoynted Mr. — and Mr. — to look to the books lately come doun to the Colledge, and what they find fitt for binding, to cause bind the same, and to cause stich such as are pamphlets." A copy of the Catalogue of the books in the Library in 1717 is preserved in King's College Library, and the books mentioned in it are arranged in six classes :—

Libri Theologici	Titles	611	} 2857
„ Episcopi	...	...	...	„	1124
„ Medici	...	...	...	„	239
„ Judici	...	...	...	„	118
„ Philosophici	...	...	...	„	333
„ Historici et Grammatici	...	...	...	„	432

In 1720 the following, among others, were the rules of the Library : Students to have an 8vo. for 7 days, a 4to. for 14 days, and a folio for a month, paying ¼d., 1d., 2d. per diem respectively for each day beyond ; students only to touch books handed to them by the Librarian ; students must either deposit pecuniary value of book, or one of equivalent value ; a written receipt to be given for every book taken out on loan ; students to pay "a sum betwixt a shilling sterling and half-a-crown at pleasure" for use of the library ; a fire to be lit in Library twice a week ; Librarian to find security for his intronissions. In September, 1721, eight bolls of meal were ordered to be paid to the

Librarian. In 1722, orders were given "to cause number the whole books in the Librarie, in the clearest manner," while on February 14th, 1726, £5 5s. were paid to "the Liberie Keeper, more as what he has got already, for his extraordinarie paines in putting the books in order, and making the Catalogues thereof." During 1726, wire doors were ordered for the presses in the Library. In 1756, the Librarian was to receive, in addition to his other benefits, "what can be spared from the Library funds for his encouragement." In 1774, £100 was bequeathed "to the Publick Library of the University of Aberdeen. . . . to be laid out on books written by English, Scottish and Irish authours, relating to Government or to civil or natural history, or to the mathe-matiks." On November 20th, 1784, Prof. Ogilvie suggested the handing over of the fees paid yearly by bursars "for the use of silver spoons, which they never see, and 1/- yearly for a dinner at which they are not asked to be present." In May, 1805, it is noted that "the books in the College Library have been for some years past shamefully abused and destroyed by idle boys writing in them, and even by cutting out the plates. . . . A College Library should be a place for pre-serving and keeping useful and valuable books of science, and not for their destruction, and should be open only for the advancement of science; it never could have been intended as a Circulating Library for idle, thoughtless people, who wish only to pass their time in reading plays and romances. Many of these abuses arise from the facility with which the students and others get books out of the Library." In 1808—"No books are henceforth to be given out to the students from the Library without depositing the value of the book." In 1818 books reported damp and many missing; in 1819—certain books not to be given out, "except by a special order from the Curator"; in 1837—salary of Librarian was £40. The number of volumes in the King's College Library on June 30th, 1858, was 43,530.

(To be continued.)



STATUTES AFFECTING PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

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IN an article in the October number of the *Library World* Mr. W. J. Willcock calls attention to the "Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1889," which indirectly concerns library authorities. This raises the question of the existence of other Acts, not specifically referring to Public Libraries, but containing provisions concerning libraries and their officers. It would be useful and interesting to have a list and description of Acts, other than those quoted or referred to in the various Public Libraries' Acts, and, as a preliminary, we draw attention to one which appears to be little known.

This is the "Public Bodies Corrupt Practices Act, 1889" (52 and 53 Vict. c. 69), which arose out of the report of the Royal Commission

on the late Metropolitan Board of Works. The wording of the Act is very clear, and is designed to prevent the practice of giving secret commissions, against which Lord Russell has drafted a Bill. "Every person who corruptly solicits, or receives, or agrees to receive, for himself, or for any other person, any gift, loan, fee, reward, or advantage, as an inducement to any member, officer, or servant of a public body,* doing or forbearing to do anything in respect of any matter or transaction in which such public body is concerned; and every person who shall, with the like object, corruptly give, promise, or offer any gift, loan, fee, reward, or advantage to any person, whether for the benefit of that person or of another, shall be guilty of a misdemeanour. Anyone convicted of such an offence shall be liable to imprisonment for two years; or to a fine of £500, or to both imprisonment and fine; and, in addition, be liable to pay to such public body the amount or value of any gift, loan, fee, or reward so received by him; and be adjudged incapable of holding any public office for seven years, and to forfeit any such office held by him. If the offence is repeated he shall be further liable to be adjudged for ever incapable of holding any public office, and to be incapable for seven years of being registered as an elector, or voting at a Parliamentary, or other election; and, if an officer or servant in the employ of any public body, he shall also be liable to forfeit his right to any compensation or pension to which he would otherwise have been entitled."

These, in brief, are the main heads of this Act, which is so wide in its range that "advantage" is defined to include any office or dignity, and any forbearance to demand any money or money's worth, and any aid, vote, consent, or influence, and any promise or procurement of any gift, loan, fee, or reward. It is very curious that this Act should have escaped notice for such a long period. Never once has it been alluded to in any work connected with library administration with which we are acquainted, and it is just possible that other enactments affecting librarians as public officers are in existence.



THE BEAUTIES OF CLASSIFICATION : A SYMPOSIUM.

Edited by J. L. JASTUMBER.

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AN immense amount of misconception is abroad as to the inconsistencies and difficulties of classification, which a little inquiry may serve to dispel. To this end I have—in emulation of other choice spirits—distributed a circular among some prominent British librarians and assistants, inviting them to express an opinion

*County or Municipal Council, any Board, Select Vestry, or other body which has power to administer money raised by Rates.

as to where in any systematic classification a certain doubtful book should be put. The work chosen was "Practical Radiography: an elementary treatise on the Röntgen or X-Rays, translated from the Dutch of Piet van Schwartz-Schadouw," 1899; and the replies show quite an unexpected degree of unanimity. They serve to illustrate the homely truth that "great minds often think alike," though they sometimes confuse the issue by some difference in the form of expression. I have not printed all the replies, but the following examples are sufficiently instructive and comprehensive:—

"Ever since my early childhood I have believed in the beautiful simplicity of the *Alphabet*, and in that belief I mean to die—when it suits me. The book in question should certainly go under its author's name, whatever *that* may be. I have been born in at least thirty-five places, and have enjoyed the personal intimacy of all the greatest representatives of art, science, and literature of this generation, and should know something about the matter."—THESAURUS.

"I should put this work in the sage-green section of the crushed-strawberry division of the triangle class in my colour-and-shape scheme. May I take this opportunity of *strongly recommending* my recently published and excellent work, entitled "Classification Pap: or every babe its own Classifier"? I understand it is now being largely used in kindergarten circles in America."—OPEN AXIENSIS.

"This work is of a nature to exercise the reflective and synthetical faculties of man. From a biological point of view it is somewhat vague, but may be referred to some division of the 'Good Lores,' devised by *me*. Inquiries respectfully directed to the Education Department of the English nation would elicit information as to a *certain source* from which an exact answer to this weighty problem could be obtained."—PEDAGOGUE.

"As an instructor in the art of teaching the young library idea how to shout, I should classify this book in Photography."—ASSOCIATE LIBRARIAN.

"I object—I always do on ordinary occasions as a matter of course to questions of this sort coming from such a source—carrying neither weight nor authority—and care not a single Duke of Wellington's twopenny d—how the book is classified. Certainly—and I say this most emphatically—wherever *I* put the book would be the *right place*—nowhere else would suit *me*—and if I incline to place it in Chemistry (which doesn't necessarily follow) I reserve the right to change my mind whenever I choose."—JUST SO.

"I would put this book under the counter, where it would be handy in case anybody asked for it."—JUNIOR ASSISTANT.

"This subject is not scheduled in Dewey's Index; consequently it is Fiction, and must be classified as such."—SENIOR ASSISTANT.

"There can be no question as to the class of this book. Surely anything on X-rays is mathematics, and would properly go in Algebra."—AN HON. SEC.

"I opine that the division of Electricity in Dewey's monumental tome would be an appropriate place for a work of this sort."—DUBLINITE.

"There is a special classification for X books, called the 'Xpansive,' by Mr. Cutter; but I haven't got a copy, so can't answer your question."—A SUMMER SCHOOL STUDENT.

"The science of Radiography is the art of seeing through people and things by means of invisible light, and should be classified accordingly. I don't believe in classification myself—it is not ARTISTIC—but, depend upon it, that's where it should go."—WEST END.

"I'd put this book wherever the librarian told me."—JUVENTUS MUNDI.

"The division 'Optics' seems to me a proper classification for this book, but I should much prefer to follow the practice of the majority of librarians. See my 'Cataloguer's Sheet-Anchor: or Manual of Quinquennial Rules.'"—QUAKER.

"If librarians were sensible men, and used indicators, there would be no need to classify books, but only to use as many *numbers* as possible. See my Special Circular, No. 39641."—VINDICATOR.

"This is distinctly a book which should be classed as Medical Science, probably in Regional Surgery."—R. M. C. S.

"I prefer to consider the biographical side of classification as paramount to all others, and should class this in the Biography of Science, under Röntgen."—B. M.

"I should classify this among 'Books least wanted,' and put it in the basement."—UTILITY.

"This book is a demy octavo, and may be classified either in the octavo or duodecimo series."—OLD SCHOOL.

"Our class A—Religion, Science, Art, Heraldry, and Dictionaries—fits this book like a glove."—NEW CUT.

"We always put books of a doubtful character either in Miscellaneous or the Juvenile section. As this is a work on palmistry, as may be seen by the illustrations of hands, it should go with the books for girls, among the juveniles. I should, however, very much like to know what are the views of the *children themselves* upon this matter before definitely deciding, and am thinking of sending out 10,000 circulars to the children of this town, asking for their opinion. The replies would make a capital article for 'The Public Library Journal.'"—CAMBRIA.

"The librarian is away at present, but he has a collection of books in a locked cupboard in his office, marked X, which he only allows to circulate among his committee-men and personal friends. That's where the book you mention would be put, as we're *very particular* about our books in this library."—ASSISTANT-IN-CHARGE.

"From the title—and I never look *inside* a book, as does that very absurd person, the "new" cataloguer—I gather this is a monograph on some unknown species of rays; it should therefore go in Fishes, in Zoology."—VILLA.

"As an opponent of the 'open door,' I cannot be expected to give any professional information to a paper which circulates among outsiders. But any person who has been *born* in a Public Library, and trained up from a baby in the work, I shall be glad to reply to

privately on this very important question. The interests of our inefficient assistants absolutely demand this much.”—DUKERIES.

“I conclude the Radiography referred to in this title is Jameson Raidiography, and I would class it in History of the Transvaal.”—AN AMBITIOUS JUNIOR.

“Acting in accordance with a well-recognised principle, I should put this book in the *most useful* place. I cannot be more explicit as to its precise destination in a magazine intended for general circulation.”—A MEMBER OF THE L.A.A.

The above communications speak for themselves, and scarcely need comment by the Editor. But it is hoped that, after this exhaustive *exposé* of the subject, there will be no more nonsense written or spoken about the “personal equation in classification.”



LOCAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS.

By E. A. BAKER, M.A., *Librarian, Midland Railway Institute, Derby.*

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IN making a survey of the different ways in which a local Library Association may be a great help to library workers, I shall not attempt to record what has already been done. The history of these bodies is of absorbing interest to their respective members, no doubt, but would hardly repay the curiosity of outsiders; and perhaps, as the details are of an exceedingly personal nature, it would be safer to wait until the biographies of the more distinguished members appear. The *Library Association Record* shows that four such societies exist in England: the North-Western Branch of the Library Association, the Birmingham and District Library Association, the Librarians of the Mersey District, and the North Midland Library Association. The last is the eldest by several years, though not the largest; 1900 is its decennial year.

A local Library Association is a body formed for certain business purposes; if we ever forget it, the railway companies would soon remind us by declining to carry us at rates unsuited to the dignity of our objects. Yet it seems to me that the social aim is at least as important as the merely technical. The advantage to a librarian of being on friendly terms with every fellow-worker within forty miles of him, cannot well be exaggerated; and the result of bringing these together frequently to discuss local affairs with the sympathy and insight that propinquity gives, and of a moderate indulgence in picnicking and junketing no less, is to make a big family of colleagues whose interests are in unison. A man taking a post in a new district appreciates these benefits most, but they are general. Friendships are knitted and alliances founded between men who can frequently offer each other a

friendly hand or friendly counsel; those little dodges are imparted privately which the knowing one would on no account publish to the world; and this intimacy enables subjects to be discussed by the association *un famille*, with less reserve and more practical usefulness than belongs to more public meetings. One suggestion in this regard which I would make is, that a sort of "Notes and Queries" agency might be worked by each Secretary, whereby propositions and requests for advice, which are scarcely of magnitude enough to authorize a paper, might be brought forward impersonally and discussed at ensuing meetings. It would enable assistants, and others who are too shy to air their ideas, to benefit themselves and other people. Londoners have their journals for this purpose, but *viva voce* discussion is after all more effective. Local associations are serviceable in this very respect that they encourage modest young men to open their mouths; and their freedom from the august, formal air of the parent society is likely to elicit originality which may afterwards be exhibited in a wider field.

Where an association has its head-quarters in a large town, half-day classes ought to be a success. Such classes could easily be arranged to avoid the difficulties attendant upon summer schools which hold their sittings for several consecutive days. Local conditions rule such undertakings; but even if circumstances are not the most favourable, it is worth remembering that every experiment of the kind is a step towards the specialized education for librarians which we all trust the future has in store. All the associations have made it a custom to pay visits to publishing and printing establishments, to binderies, and factories of all kinds that are connected in any way with the production of books, of stationery, and of furniture used in libraries. Exhibitions of books and appliances are organized without much difficulty, since vendors are only too glad of such a chance for displaying their wares. Mr. Briscoe—who has been president and secretary of the North Midland so many times that he has become, as it were, a vital part, on which the health and safety of the association depend—has arranged many useful exhibitions on a small scale, and has made a feature of distributing selected bundles of illustrated price lists, and technical pamphlets of various kinds, which have been extremely useful in such a shape.

Of still greater value should be a project which the same association has decided to carry out, namely, the formation of a library of technical works. Special works on library economy, on bibliography, and on the numerous cognate subjects, are getting too numerous for every librarian to possess the bulk of them. Most of us, after shelving a select few of those technical books which are the sinews of war, are embarrassed with the question what to do without, so large is the deluge of catalogues, journals, bulletins, reports, and other things, any one of which may be wanted some time or another. Only think how valuable would be a fairly numerous, but carefully chosen, collection of catalogues, if readily accessible to librarians; yet in an individual library the thing would be an incubus. All the library magazines—English and foreign—and the technical treatises that have been pub-

lished here and by the United States, along with some standard works on bibliography, ought to form the foundation of our technical library, the more important duplicated if necessary: and after that would come collections of catalogues, useful reports and pamphlets, and the thousand and one publications that have a bearing on the subject. Great freedom would have to be allowed in the use of the books, but librarians ought surely to be exemplary borrowers. The cost would not be heavy in comparison with the utility of such a collection, seeing what a quantity of these works is to be had for the asking.

I need not advert to the desirability of paying visits to all local libraries, public and private, and of making a study of the literary treasures that may exist in the neighbourhood. As I have insinuated, it is a pity to talk too much shop, and wider and more liberal views of librarianship may be fostered by paying attention to subjects purely of a literary character. If literary papers are added to the programme, the best subjects they can take are local ones. For instance, appreciations of local novelists, of Messrs. Fletcher & Sutcliffe, by a Yorkshireman, of Mr. Walter Raymond, by a librarian from Zummerzset, of Mrs. Francis, Messrs. Saunders and Acworth, by one of the host of Lancashire librarians, might be made very useful.

But when all is said and done the best thing is to preserve good fellowship.



THE ANNOTATION OF FICTION.

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A VERY important contribution to practical librarianship has just been issued by Mr. E. A. Baker, M.A., in his "Descriptive Handbook to the more noteworthy works of prose fiction in the library of the Midland Railway Institute, Derby. Derby; October, 1899. Entered at Stationers' Hall." This is a catalogue of 151 pages, and in some respects is the most interesting and thorough work of the kind I have ever seen. The arrangement is chiefly geographical, with subdivisions under historical periods, but there are also three special classes, named "X—Novels with a purpose;" "Y—Works of pure imagination;" and "Z—Facetiæ." An index of authors, places, and subjects is provided, together with a synopsis of classification and a large list of abbreviations. Mr. Baker has already outlined his scheme of classification in this journal,* and his handbook is substantially on the same lines. He has marked "recognised masterpieces and the best novels on particular topics" by means of asterisks, and in many cases has supplied brief biographical dates of authors and the original dates of publication of their novels. I heartily congratulate Mr. Baker upon a remarkably good piece of work, which shows much research, clear critical faculty, and wide knowledge of the subject; and,

* *Library World*, vol. i., p. 217, &c.

though compelled to disagree with many of his methods, I can still warmly admire a first-rate and valuable production.

The history of fiction annotation has been briefly told by Mr. Baker himself in the article previously referred to, and it has been touched upon by other writers before and since. As stated in Mr. Baker's "explanatory note" to his handbook, the main object of such annotation is "to assist those numerous readers who have not time to study the multitude of reviews . . . by supplying a modicum of information concerning the best fiction in the library, indicating roughly what each book is about, and whether it is interesting, with other useful details." There are doubtless many ways of accomplishing this end, and some difference of opinion exists as to the most suitable form in which to cast such information. It is chiefly as regards form that disagreement with Mr. Baker will arise, and I take the liberty of commenting on several points which have occurred to me on carefully examining the handbook. A minor blemish may be disposed of first. The immense number of abbreviations is a complete mistake. Not only are the notes rendered obscure and difficult of comprehension thereby, but the object for which they were doubtless adopted—the saving of space—is hardly ever attained. The number of lines saved is nothing in comparison to the confusion which such mutilation is certain to cause. This is an example of the class of note alluded to:—

"Intg. as an ex. of the hist. romance in the prentice stage: it is bound w. Horace Walpole's "Castle of Otranto," of wh. it is confessedly the lit. offspring."

In his introductory note Mr. Baker says that "The notes are mainly descriptive; but critical also so far as to say whether a book is successful and readable. Though in form curt statements unsupported by quotation, which the design excludes, they are not of a nature to be lightly disputed, agreeing as they do with the voice of authoritative criticism." It is just on this point that differences with Mr. Baker will arise. In my humble opinion, criticism is quite out of place in a descriptive handbook of fiction intended chiefly to show the *information* to be derived from novels. There may be some difference between the constituency for which this handbook is intended and that of an ordinary municipal library, but even that does not justify the personal opinions of the librarian being inflicted upon his readers. What he may regard as eminently good, or may select from the criticisms of authority as most nearly voicing his own view, does not necessarily represent what others may think; and because it is utterly futile to set up a standard of taste in fiction, so it is dangerous to attempt to assess the literary value of novels in the manner of this handbook. The descriptive side of Mr. Baker's notes is completely overshadowed by the critical side, while their informative or educational value is very largely smothered in the prominence given to the annotations of doubtful books.

If fiction has any value in an educational sense, it is when it is historical or descriptive. Certainly the analyses of morbid sexual phenomena in novels have not the slightest value to anybody, and,

beyond ministering to the needs of a particular type of reader, might as well remain unwritten. Every man is his own psychologist, and has no need for the subtle analytical wit of Daudet, France, or Bourget to unravel questions of conscience. Anatole France, for example, will attach important significance to trivial events that a healthy mind would never notice, and will glorify a disreputable intrigue, which ought to have its ending in a police-court, into a species of religious ceremony. Mr. Baker has, in my opinion, given undue prominence to the books of this description, or, to quote his own quotation of H. G. Wells (p. 31), he has picked out for special mention the novels which deal "with the 'daughters of joy,' the culinary garbage necessary, as Mr. Lecky tells us, to the feast of English morality." That he has done so with only the best intentions goes without saying. Take these notes, for example :—

FRANCE, Anatole. *Le lys rouge*.

"A complete anatomy of sensual love and jealousy in the story of a woman's *liaisons*; no element of voluptuousness is spared, but the inevitable end is shown to be dust and ashes. Choulette is Paul Verlaine."

DAUDET, A. *Sapho*.

"Hist. of a young man's utter moral ruin by a *liaison* w. an artist in debauchery; a sombre and terrible analysis of sensual passion. Too strong for any but the experienced."

DEFOE, Dan. *Moll Flanders*.

"A realistic, and not too reticent, story of shady life—the career of a harlot; excellent for its view of contemporary life and manners."

In this and other ways, such as notes like the following :—

"Fielding's novels are not adapted for girls' schools;"

"Unlawful love is the general theme;"

"Not suitable for indiscriminate circulation;"

"Not written for girl-schools;"

"His works are not written 'virginibus puerisque';"

"The follies and vices of fast life in Paris are excellently set forth;"

Mr. Baker has gone far beyond what was required to point out the value of fiction as a teacher. Instead, he has actually labelled in the most unmistakable manner the very class of fiction which every librarian believes should be kept away from the general and young reader, and, if provided at all, should only be at the call of special students of literature or readers of mature judgment.

On the other hand, in his critical eagerness, he has not done justice to many valuable historical and descriptive novels. For instance, under the heading "England, Early 19th Century," Michael Scott's "Tom Cringle's Log" is noted thus :

"Graphic sketches of the sailor's life: inferior to Marryat's as stories: far superior in style and descriptive power."

This is just the sort of note which is practically useless. *The* great strength of "Tom Cringle's Log" lies in its magnificent series of sketches

of West Indian life and scenery, particularly as seen in Cuba and Jamaica. But Mr. Baker not only misses this, but his index of subjects shows nothing of a collective or other kind at "Cuba," "Jamaica," "Sea," "Navy," or "West Indies." The average reader who wants to read some tales of life in the Navy or descriptive novels about the West Indies expects, in a handbook like this, a direct reference to all the works possessed by the library at some *one* definite place. This Mr. Baker does not give in any shape or form. There are many similar mistakes, perhaps to be expected in a work of this kind, but only a few need be indicated in further proof of my contention that, in his haste to be critical, Mr. Baker has missed the need of being always correctly descriptive and informative.

Black's "Shandon Bells," under "Ireland, Present Day," should be placed at London. It deals almost entirely with literary and artistic life in London. Daudet's "Robert Helmont" deals entirely with the siege of Paris as witnessed by a French non-combatant outside the fortifications. This is more useful than the note—which may be true or not, since it is but an opinion—"not worthy of the author of "Tartarin." Wiggins' "Penelope's Experiences in Scotland" is under United States, but not at Scotland. No cross-references. The sketches of Edinburgh life are very good, and the book has nothing to do with the United States apart from the nationality of the author. This also applies to Crockett's "Ione March." The sub-title, "or the Astrologer," has accidentally got transferred from Scott's "Guy Mannering" to "The Antiquary." Graham Travers' "Mona Maclean," apart from its preliminary London chapters, is a novel of Scottish life, and not "England in the present day." Some of Mr. Baker's characterisations are very smart and wicked. I particularly admire this note on a novel by Mr. R. B. Cunningham Graham: "Malicious and acidulated criticism of John Bull by a self-complacent Ishmael!" The Laird of Gartmore as a "self-complacent Ishmael" is very funny. I need not pursue the engrossing pursuit of error-hunting further, but will conclude with one more specimen, to show how it is possible to criticise a book with cleverness, knowledge, and conciseness, and still miss telling what it is all about:—

"Vivacious society story, remarkable for the feverish brilliance of its dialogue, its wealth of repartee, and smart 'obiter dicta.' The plot is impossible, but clever; the 'dénouement' astounding."

Having said so much of mingled praise and blame about this intensely interesting handbook, I may sum up by saying that, in my opinion, the whole plan of the work is wrong. For general use a fiction catalogue should be arranged by authors, the interest in the personality of novelists being so keen. The notes should be descriptive, and never critical. Indexes of subjects and titles should be provided with great fulness, and should be minutely analytical. A scheme of classification may be provided in tabular form, if thought useful, but with a good index it is hardly necessary. Lastly, novels which are not "virginibus puerisque" should be discreetly handled, so that the youths and

maidens frequenting libraries need not have their attention directed to erotic literature before their minds are ripe.

I strongly recommend librarians to obtain a copy of Mr. Baker's able work. It is full of amusement, facts, and clever criticism, and, above all, it is a perfect storehouse of information about the doubtful novels which the British Philistine delights to revile for their indecency, irrespective of their merits as masterpieces of literature. It is therefore a guide on *what to avoid*, especially in French fiction, and as such has a value far above mere considerations of form or utility.

J. D. BROWN.



THE LIBRARY STAFF.

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THIS DEPARTMENT is conducted for the special, but not exclusive, benefit of the earnest and studious Library Assistant, who is determined to make his or her way in the profession of Librarianship. An effort will be made to cover in a gradual and complete manner, the whole of the ground occupied by the technical side of the craft, and to enable this to be thoroughly done, brief practical notes of any kind are solicited from assistants or librarians in any sort of library. Ethical disquisitions on department and disagreeable controversial notes are not wanted. Every assistant should make a point of sending at least one note annually bearing on the daily routine work of a library. Nothing is too trivial or trite to be thoroughly discussed.

EDITED BY A LANCASHIRE LIBRARIAN.

**Overdue
Books.**
BY
E. A. S.

THE question of the recovery of overdue books is not such an unimportant one that library assistants can afford to lack some acquaintance with the different methods in vogue. It is with the hope of eliciting a few notes on this subject that I venture to offer a word on the practice at my library. The usual applications are made by postcard, but they are made *daily* as soon as a book is two weeks and a day overdue, not weekly. Very little additional trouble is given by doing this, and obviously a delay of several days in making application is often avoided. The second postcard sent bears a large red stamp, "Second Application"; the third is stamped "Third and Final Application." All postcards have on the address side the request, "Return if undelivered," to ensure early intimation of a borrower's disappearance. If a postcard is returned, or if no answer to the third application is received, the following printed or manifolded form is filled up, and given to the caretaker of the library :—

DEFAULTER.

Name : JAMES SMITH.*Address* : 5, John Street.*Book* : K1101, Dickens' "Little Dorrit."*Issued* : 29/7/99.*Applications* : 8/8 ; 4/9 ; 11/9.*Fine* : 6½d.*Result* : No reply.*Result of Inquiry* :

Armed with this, he calls on the borrower, makes inquiries, and, in short, plays the part of detective. This method of dealing with overdues has been found to work with distinct success.

**Ordnance
Maps in Public
Libraries.** WITH reference to a paper on this subject by E. A. Baker, in the *Library World*, vol. i., p. 54, October, 1898, it is worth mentioning that a new series of maps is being prepared by the Ordnance Survey Office, which will have substantial advantages over the old. It is on the one-inch scale, as before, but, in addition to contour lines, the hills are shaded, and still greater relief is obtained by means of tinting the land surface, whilst the rivers and the sea are coloured blue. Each sectional sheet embraces an area of 32 × 24 miles (the former series measured 20 × 12 miles), it is printed on linen-backed paper, and folded in covers in a shape very convenient for the breast-pocket. At present only the following districts have had their maps issued:—The coast districts from Otterton and Sidmouth round to Foulness; the vicinity of Harwich, Salisbury Plain, and a big square including Taunton, Cardiff, Bristol.

For Lending Library purposes this new form should be much superior to the old—in fact, one could hardly wish for anything better—and the price makes it actually cheaper, since there will be no further expense in backing, while each sheet covers a larger area.

LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS.

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SOME recent utterances on the **Craft of librarian** which have been published in this country and in the United States, almost convince us that the public library service of both the new and the old world was established primarily for the assistant, next for the committee-man who likes to bulk largely in the public eye, in a less degree for the librarian, and, only incidentally, for the rate-paying citizen. This reflection has been forced upon us lately, after a careful examination of some thousands of newspaper cuttings and various files of British, American, and Foreign library journals. Throughout the whole of this mass of matter there is little to be remarked but the strenuous call of the assistant, committee-man and librarian for more recognition. Beyond an occasional timid letter to the editor regarding defective lighting, draughts, or the late delivery of a favourite journal, the voice of the public is never heard. The library assistant is making most noise at present, both here and in America. In England *he* is suffering from an invisible competition; a hard-hearted Library Association; small pay; and long hours. In America *she* seems to be suffering chiefly from long hours and nervous prostration, induced by intense enthusiasm for the duty of keeping the boys in order. At a meeting of librarians in Ohio recently, great attention was devoted to the question of assistants' hours of duty, and the feeling was generally expressed that the poor dear creatures should not work more than *six* hours a day, and never, under any circumstance, more than three at a stretch. For this tremendous sacrifice of time in the public service, salaries ranging from £100 to £300 per annum are expected; and of course, if the silly citizens require the libraries to be opened for more than six hours a day, then they must pay for a special duplicate relief staff. So, in England, we are eternally being deafened by the clamour for shorter hours, to enable assistants to cultivate something; and one of the most absurd outcomes of this outcry, is the practice of closing public libraries for a whole or a half-day weekly, to the inconvenience of hundreds of citizens. Of course, we quite recognise that it would never do to let the assistants suffer, and equally it would be diminishing the chances of pecuniary promotion to engage additional staff, so that the proper course is to make the paying citizen the scapegoat. We are not sure that the library assistants of England and America are sufficiently recognised, or that their manifold virtues, as slaves to an ungrateful public, receive a just or liberal reward. Why six hours a day? Why not six hours *a week*, and £200 a year, with payment of subscriptions to bicycle, swimming, golf, tennis and billiard clubs, and, say, two months' vacation? We might also insure his or her precious life, and grant adequate pensions from the age of twenty-five or thirty. In a future number we shall have something to say on the comparatively unimportant subject of the cult of the PUBLIC, which, for some time past, has been forgotten in the general anxiety to advance professional interests.

WE learn that the **John Rylands Library** will not be opened for public use till January 1st, 1900. The chief regulations for admission will be as follows:—Hours, 10 till 6 daily, save Sundays, and on Saturdays 10 till 2. Only ticket-holders admitted, who must be over eighteen years of age. Applications for tickets must be signed by “two persons of recognised position, whose addresses can be identified from the ordinary sources of reference.” Wraps, umbrellas, &c., must be deposited at the entrance. No fees to officers. Everything generally left to the librarians, who will also receive “complaints about the service of the library.” There is a “Council of Governors,” but it is not quite clear what its powers are, beyond granting or cancelling tickets under certain special conditions. The use of the library does not appear from the rules to be confined to residents in Manchester and neighbourhood, and it seems equally clear that an application from a student in Hong Kong, signed by Messrs. Kruger and Joubert, would be accepted, provided the “persons of recognised position” had their names in the Transvaal Directory and knew the applicant. Such liberality is quite refreshing in these days of official restrictions.

SIR J. BLUNDELL MAPLE, Bart., presented over 300 useful works of reference to the **Penge Public Library**, which were exhibited at the library from October 28th to November 3rd.

THE **Chorley Public Library** will be opened on December 13th, by the donor, Herbert T. Parke, Esq., J.P., C.C., of Withnell Fold, near Chorley. The building is a very pretty one, and presents every accommodation to the public and library staff. It contains Reference Library, Lending Library, News-room, Boys' Reading-room, and a novel feature in a library—a smoke-room. A sum of money amounting to upwards of £1,400 has been subscribed for the purchase of books, &c. Among the subscribers are Sir Henry Tate (who was born in Chorley), £500; Mrs. Rylands, £150; and Lord Balcarres (the borough member, eldest son of Lord Crawford), £50.

MR. C. F. ROCHESTER, assistant at the Richmond Public Library, has been appointed sub-librarian at the **Acton Public Library**, under Mr. Shuttleworth.

WE have received copies of Nos. 6 and 7 of that dainty little publication, the *Bootle Free Library, Museum, and Technical School Journal*. Mr. Ogle is to be congratulated on the production, as it is both well printed and illustrated. The notes on books are interesting and calculated to encourage the reading of more serious works than fiction. We are much interested in the Museum Notes, and should be glad to see other library journals follow the example of **Bootle** and Cardiff in this direction. There is a close connection between libraries and museums, and much good and useful work can be done in attracting library readers to the museum.

THE parish of **Creich**, by a substantial majority of three-fourths of the householders, adopted the Public Libraries' Act. The adoption of

the Act implies the acceptance of Mr. Carnegie's offer of £1000 towards a library in Bonar village, and £250 to each of the districts of Spinningdale and Rosehall.

AN evening newsroom has been established at the East Silvertown Board School, near Silvertown Station, as a branch of the **West Ham** Public Libraries.

THE **Edinburgh** Public Libraries' Committee has resolved not to open the libraries on Sunday.

TENDERS have been invited for the erection of a public library building at William Street, **Woolwich**. No librarian has been appointed.

THE **Whitstable** Urban District Council has considered the question of adopting the Public Libraries' Acts, and a committee will be appointed to go into the matter.

JAMES HIGGINS (68), was fined 10s. or three days' imprisonment, on October 24th, for mutilating papers in the **Portsmouth** Public Library.

ON November 28th the **East Ham** Public Library building at Plashet, partly erected from funds contributed by Mr. J. Passmore Edwards, was opened by Mr. Herbert Gladstone, M.P. The building is of red brick, with Bath stone facings, and it contains a spacious hall; a Magazine and Reference Room, 27 ft. by 20 ft.; a Lending Library, 30 ft. by 20 ft.; a Librarian's Room; a Committee Room; and Ladies' Reading-room. It is equipped with 10,000 books of all kinds, and the fittings are most complete and comfortable.

AN interesting experiment is about to be tried by the Library Commissioners of **St. George-in-the-East**. It has been decided to inaugurate a series of lectures for boys in the Reference Library. The first will be on the life of Queen Victoria.

THE **Rotherhithe** Public Library Committee has arranged for a course of free lectures to be given during the ensuing winter. The lecturers will be Dr. Garnett, C.B., Revs. J. Scott Lidgett, G. W. Keesey, and J. A. Betts, and Mr. E. Foskett.

AT a recent meeting of the Executive Committee of the **Wolverhampton** New Free Library it was reported that the building fund amounted to about £11,000. The contract for the building was signed at the same meeting.

South Shields reports a stock of 24,546 volumes, of which 8,482 are for reference. 96,635 volumes were issued in the Lending Library, and 16,650 volumes were consulted in the Reference Library—a total of 113,285 volumes.

As we go to press, we learn that Mr. A. W. Robertson, M.A., Librarian of the **Aberdeen** Public Library for the last fifteen years, is retiring. It has been decided to advertise for a successor, at a salary of £250 per annum.

OUR contemporary, "**Literature**," has initiated a new feature by establishing a special column for "Library Notes," which is edited by a gentleman well known in the library world. We believe this is the first occasion on which a high-class literary weekly has devoted systematic attention to the subject.

WE Most Cordially Support Mr. **Jast's** Proposal In The *Library World* For November To "Capitalise Every Word In A Title," As A Protest Against The Tame Mediocrity Of The Existing Practice. It May Put The Printer "Out of Sorts," But Is Such A Capital Innovation And So Thoroughly Original That It Should Be Widely Adopted. Only—we fervently trust it won't!

THE extraordinary popularity of the **Hornsey** Public Library has made it imperative to increase the staff, and accordingly Mr. H. G. Sureties, of Croydon Public Library, has been appointed senior assistant. In the course of about three weeks over 5,000 borrowers have been enrolled, and the daily issues now reach 800 volumes. This, we should imagine, is almost a record performance, as no tickets were issued till October 23rd, and it certainly is a very high tribute to the efficiency of the open access system that such an enormous issue should be successfully tackled by a staff of four, three of whom are young lads quite fresh to the work. Mr. Johnston is to be congratulated on this splendid result.

THE issue of "A History of the **English Poor Law**, Volume III., from 1834 to the present time; being a supplementary volume to 'A History of the English Poor Law,' by Sir George Nicholls, K.C.B. By Thomas Mackay" (London: P. S. King & Son, 1899, price 21s.), completes and brings down to date a work which ought to be in the reference department of every Public Library. It contains a very full account of the legislation on the subject, with a very able series of criticisms of its economic results.



Early Printed Books and Manuscripts in the City Reference Library, Bristol. By NORRIS MATHEWS, Librarian. Bristol. Printed for the Libraries Committee by W. Crofton Hemmons. 1899. 4to. 84 pp.

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THIS book gives us much pleasure to inspect. It is well printed with good type and good paper, and abounds with useful photographic reproductions. In the preface is a short notice of the foundation of the Bristol City Public Library, to which the books and MSS. herein catalogued were mostly given by Dr. Tobias Mathew, Archbishop of York, between the years 1613 and 1628, for the benefit of his native city, for which reason all the books in the library printed up to the year 1628 are included. The first section deals with the



THE TREATMENT OF GOUT :
FROM SURGICAL MS. IN THE CITY REFERENCE LIBRARY BRISTOL.



THE PRESENTATION OF THE MS,
FROM SURGICAL MS. IN THE CITY REFERENCE LIBRARY, BRISTOL.

incunabula, which begin at a fairly respectable antiquity, to wit, 1479, of which year there are two works—(1) that of Johannes Mesua, otherwise known as Yūhannā Ibn Māsawaih, printed at Venice, and (2) St. Augustine's treatise, "De Civitate Dei," printed at Basle. The other fifteenth century books include the works of Paulus Orosius, Jo. de Turrecremata, Petrus Comestor, and other theologians and historians; Sallust, Aristotle, Trogus Pompeius, Livy, Cicero, and other classical writers; the "Fasciculus Temporum," with the curious date "MCCCCLRC," which Mr. Mathews explains to be [?] 1484, but does not say how he arrives at that conjectural equivalent; and the "Promptorium Pavamlorum," London, 1499. In all, twenty-three volumes printed before the close of the fifteenth century, of which two are not represented in the Library of the British Museum. Some of these valuable books are in their original bindings, which add to their interest and value as antiquities. It would be interesting to know—if one could know with any near approximation—how many books were printed in the fifteenth century, and how many of them have been reprinted at later dates. This century, like those which followed it, had its own particular bent and bias in literature; orthodox theology, pure classics, and histories and chronicles appear to have stood highest then in popular favour. The Bristol Library may be congratulated on the possession of these typographical relics, although a little judicious buying now and then might be exercised to improve the representative character of the assemblage, only one English book, and that at the very close of the period, being at present included. It need hardly be said that very few students read these *incunabula*: they inspect them, and handle them with reverence and care, but it is doubtful if they read a single page of them; still, no library of any importance or pretension should be without them, for many obvious reasons. The second series embraces the period from 1502 to 1628. It is an attractive and useful collection, with upwards of fifty works in it not found by Mr. Mathews in the British Museum Library. Among these it is strange that our national museum should be deficient in such works as Peter Baron's "Prælectiones in Jonam Prophetam," printed in London by the well-known John Day, 1578-79, quarto, and Hadrian Saravia's "Diversi Tractatus Theologici," printed in London by the Stationers' Company in 1610-11, folio. A third London-printed book, where Bristol scores against the British Museum, is "A Receyt to Stay the Plague, delivered by R. W. to his Parishioners," printed for Matthew Low, 1625, 4to. It is in these matters of one library supplying the deficiencies of another that students may consult catalogues of local libraries very often with considerable advantage.

The Bristol Library further possesses ten manuscripts, of which are given numerous full-page illustrations. Among these manuscripts are (1) a fine Bible, of about A.D. 1200, which is known as the "Corporation Bible," and was formerly in the Chamberlain's office; (2) the "Massbook" of the Victorine Canons of Bristol, about 1420, which contains in its Litany the rare mention of St. Cadoc, of Cowbridge, in Glamorganshire; and (10) a medical work by Guido de Caulhiaco,

Master-in-Medicine, entitled "Inventarium seu Collectarium in Parte Chirurgie," etc., written by order of Master John Tourtier at the request of John, Duke of Bedford and Regent of France, and embellished with numerous quaint illustrations representing surgical operations, etc. In the title of this work, as printed on p. 69, we do not understand Mr. Mathews' reading of ALI in the first line. Is it *al'r* for *aliter*? Nor do we accept the reading Montispezzulam, which should be Montispezzulani. And the impossible word *quodquid* in the fifth line of the title is an erroneous reading of the two words *quod quidem*. This last-mentioned scientific work, like all others of its period, mixes up a notice of the astrolabe with descriptions of surgical instruments, and does not despise an occasional charm founded on the sacred name of Jesus, which is to be written on almonds and accompanied with prayers. The illustration of the treatment of *gutta*, or gout, by fomentation or ablution then, as now, is interesting, and the costumes of the surgeon-author and his noble patron, shown in another plate, should be attentively studied.

Two indexes (1) of authors, and (2) of places of printing, etc., conclude the catalogue, which reflects much credit on Mr. Mathews for his research and erudition, and on the Corporation of Bristol for their manifestly liberal expenditure in producing it.



SELECT LISTS OF BOOKS ON SPECIAL SUBJECTS.

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THE WORKS OF BURNS.

By J. C. EWING, *Assistant Librarian. Mitchell Library, Glasgow.*

(Continued from page 136).

- Works, with an account of his life and a criticism on his writings. [Edited by James Currie.] London (Liverpool printed). 1800. 4 vols. 8vo. OR
 Works, with an account of his life and a criticism on his writings, by James Currie. Eighth edition. [With] further particulars of the author's life, new notes illustrative of his poems and letters, and many other additions, by Gilbert Burns. London. 1820. 4 vols. 8vo. }
- Poems ascribed to Robert Burns. Glasgow. 1801. 8vo.
- Reliques, consisting chiefly of original letters, poems and critical observations on Scottish Songs. Collected by R. H. Cromek. London. 1808. 8vo.
- Select Scottish Songs, ancient and modern. Edited by R. H. Cromek. London. 1810. 2 vols. 8vo.
- Works. [Edited.] with life, by Allan Cunningham. London. 1834. 8 vols. 12mo.
- Works. Edited by [James Hogg [and William Motherwell. Glasgow. 1834-6. 5 vols. 12mo.
- Poetical works. [Edited by Sir Nicholas Harris Nicolas.] (Second Aldine edition). London. 1839. 3 vols. 12mo.
- Correspondence between Burns and Clarinda. Edited by W. C. M'Lehose Edinburgh. 1843. 8vo.
- Life and works. Edited by Robert Chambers. (Library edition). Edinburgh. 1856-7. 4 vols. 8vo.

- Poetical works. Edited by Alexander Smith. (Golden Treasury series.) London. 1865. 2 vols. 12mo.
- Life and works. [Edited] by P. Hately Waddell. Glasgow. 1867. 2 vols. 4to.
- Works. [Edited by William Scott Douglas.] Edinburgh. 1877-9. 6 vols. 8vo.
- Life and works. Edited by Robert Chambers. Revised by William Wallace. Edinburgh, Chambers. 1896. 4 vols. 8vo. 30s.
- *Poetry. Edited by W. E. Henley and T. F. Henderson. Edinburgh, Jack. 1896-7. 4 vols. 8vo. 30s.
- Poems, songs and letters. Edited by Alexander Smith. (Globe edition.) London, Macmillan. 1891. 12mo. 3s. 6d.
- Selected poems. With introduction by Andrew Lang. London, Paul. 1891. 12mo. 3s. 6d.
- *Poetical works. Edited by William Scott Douglas. (Kilmarnock edition.) Kilmarnock, Brown. 1893. 2 vols. 12mo. 3s. 6d.
- Poems and songs. Edited by Andrew Lang and W. A. Cragie. London, Methuen. 1896. 8vo. 6s.
- Poetical works. Edited by J. Logie Robertson. London, Frowde. 1896. 12mo. 3s. 6d.
- Johnson (James) The Scots musical museum. Edinburgh. 1787-1803. 6 vols. 8vo.
- Thomson (George) A select collection of original Scottish airs. London. 1793-1841. 6 vols. fol.

BIOGRAPHY AND CRITICISM.

The more important biographies of Burns are contained in the editions noted above: Currie's *Life of Burns* (1800) in his edition of *Burns's Works*; Cunningham's (1834), Hogg's (1836), Nicolas's (1839), Smith's (1865) and Waddell's (1867), in their respective editions. Professor Nichol's *Robert Burns, a summary of his career and genius* is prefixed to Scott Douglas's *Works of Burns*; Mr. Henley's *Burns; life, genius, achievement* is included in the fourth volume of *The Centenary Burns*, and separately reprinted.

See also *Chronological summary of the life and writings of Robert Burns* in Scott Douglas's Kilmarnock edition, 1893; and sketches prefixed to one-volume editions of Burns's works.

- Blackie (John Stuart) Life of Robert Burns. (Great Writers.) London, Scott. 1888. 12mo. 1s. 6d.
- Carlyle (Thomas) Burns. 1854. 12mo.
- "Burns" is reprinted in the author's *Essays*, vol. 2.
- [Gleig (George)] Critique on the poems of Robert Burns. Edinburgh. 1812. 8vo.
- Hepburn (Thomas N.) "*Gabriel Setoun*." Robert Burns. (Famous Scots.) Edinburgh, Oliphant. 1896. 12mo. 1s. 6d.
- Heron (Robert) Memoir of the life of Robert Burns. Edinburgh. 1797. 12mo.
- Higgins (J. C.) Life of Robert Burns. Edinburgh, Menzies. 1893. 12mo. 2s.
- *Lockhart (John Gibson) Life of Robert Burns. Revised by William Scott Douglas. London, Bell. 1882. 12mo. 3s. 6d.
- M'Dowall (William) Burns in Dumfriesshire: the last eight years of the poet's life. Edinburgh, Black. 1870. 12mo. 1s. 6d.
- Shaip (John Campbell) Robert Burns. (English Men of Letters.) London, Macmillan. 1879. 12mo. 1s. 6d.
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OPEN LETTERS.

o o o

No. 2.—*To the Council of the Library Association.*

THE "OPEN DOOR."

Gentlemen,—In case you are now suffering from a fit of depression, as a consequence of the Open Letter addressed to you last October, and smarting from the effects of its out-spoken remarks, intended to teach you salutary lessons, I now indite you one which I trust will be a perfect antidote ; proving a cure for your depression, and a consolation for that visitation of candour.

You seem to get your full share of adverse criticism ; but honour where honour is due, and so I write to express my great satisfaction at the action you have taken in regard to persons not engaged in library work attending the L. A. classes.

You may be the more pleased at my expression of approval when I tell you that I am of the younger generation of librarians, and a public librarian to boot, with even my "£300 and a house" still to get, and, therefore, one whose prejudices would naturally be against the "Open door," if not, indeed, against most of the findings of your older and more honoured heads. But in this case, at least, I thoroughly agree with what I consider to be a wise and liberal policy on your part. Briefly, I like it because :—

- (1.)—Outside competition will be beneficial.
- (2.)—It is a generous policy.
- (3.)—Closed doors are suspicious and run the risk of being misinterpreted.
- (4.)—There is no call to be exclusive.

May I comment on these in turn? You will doubtless concur in what I have to say, but it may, perchance, help to convince the waverer, or even convert the sinner. I also commend this open letter to the Library Assistants' Association.

(1.)—I venture to think that the open door is the best thing that can happen to us, being really for our highest good. Most of us need some strong incentive to work and to study as we should do. The librarian of the present ought, and the librarian of the future will have, justly to lay some claim to being a scholar, and so I welcome the much-dreaded academic "outlander" as the most healthy competition we can have, the best fitted to prepare us for our future work. If we selfishly closed the door, it would, I grant, be a protection to the library assistant, and he would more easily secure a responsible position, but responsibility will be borne more worthily if it be not easily attained. The closed door would chiefly protect the lazy and incompetent; the others would welcome the additional incentive to work, and not whine that competition was too keen already. They would feel prepared, as a result of their own application, to compete with even the University man, who lacked the years of practical experience they had, and which still weighs the most heavily of all qualifications. It is urged that the library assistant and young librarian, has not much time for self culture; if it be so it is unfortunate, but his misfortune does not equip him for a responsible office. If his conditions are not so altered as to allow him to attain to some degree of learning, he must go to the wall, and the fittest, even if an outsider, survive, rather than librarianship, the community, and literature, should suffer by a succession of semi-qualified librarians.

(2.)—If opening the door is an error at all, it is on the side of liberality, and it is well to be generous, especially when there are no weighty reasons for being severely just. Then it is liberal, too, towards the wider public. It will be a sad time for us when we forget we are not a society of public librarians, when we allow personal interests to over-rule public duties, and surely the policy of the closed door is one that looks at our own good before the good of the people. We must seek first the welfare of the community, then our own.

(3.)—I would not say that those who voted with the majority at Manchester were ruled by the spirit of Trades' Unionism; indeed, I believe many conscientiously voted from a strong conviction that they were doing right, but many, I think, followed them, sheep-like, without having a strong opinion either way. These did not go with the minority because it was evidently the unpopular side, and to go there always needs stronger conviction. But I do say that such a vote as was recorded at Manchester runs great risk of being interpreted by the outside public as a move for self-protection; and Trades' Unionism is in such bad odour in general that it is well to abstain from the very appearance of evil. There are many people yet who think that the L. A. is a mutual admiration and personal aid association, and still some librarians and library committees who persistently refuse to become members because they share this delusion. Will the vote at Manchester help to dispel it? I trow not.

(4.)—Then, too, like yourselves, gentlemen, I look in vain for the outside competitor. Of course I believe in nipping an evil in the bud, but the bud is hardly visible in this case, and, even then, I have yet to be convinced that the open door is an evil. It seems to me a blessing, though it is evidently in disguise to some. So far, not more than three or four outsiders have attended your classes, and not one, I think, has received a library appointment. When they come in much more formidable numbers it will be quite time enough to consider the running of serious risks by legislating for their exclusion. I can imagine, with a great effort, their clamour for admission to our sacred ranks becoming so boisterous as to need a check, but that will be when we have attained to the dignity, which is doubtful as yet, of a generally recognized profession. I fear the policy of the Manchester majority will delay that consummation, although, when it does come, we could better afford to be exclusive.

However, gentlemen, I hope you are not very despondent as a result of that exciting Manchester vote. It was, after all, only on a side issue of the wider subject of opening your classes to students unattached to libraries. There were other considerations at Manchester which greatly affected the vote, which, if the subject grows more serious, as I fear it may, I may inform you of in a later letter, as well as give you some reasons for not attaching so great a significance to that vote as you might at first sight be inclined to do. I, at all events, am far from assuming, in consequence of that vote, that so 'suicidal' a policy as a closed door would be adopted by the L. A. if a vote on the actual question were taken. I know you join me in fervently hoping it would not.

A case can be made out, gentlemen, for the closed door (I could do it myself!) but, I feel sure that, if it were justly weighed in the balance with the case for the open door, it would be found wanting. But I will leave that case to be stated by someone who is less inclined to be kindly disposed towards you, and, for your action in this matter at least, subscribe myself

Yours gratefully,

BEN HORDNY.



LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS.

o o o

THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

THE First Monthly Meeting of the 1899-1900 Session was held at 20, Hanover Square, on Monday, November 13th, Mr. E. M. Borrajo, of the Guildhall Library, in the chair. About twenty members were present to hear Mr. Archibald Clarke's paper on "The Philosophical Classification of Literature as Compared with Practical Schemes of Classification," which should have been, but was not, read at the Manchester meeting. The paper was historical in character, and was briefly discussed by Messrs. Jast, Jones, Brown, and Foskett.

Questions were afterwards asked concerning the non-publication of papers read at the Southport meeting, and a lively discussion ensued. It was also stated that the question of the legality of the North-Western Branch's action in excluding outsiders from classes had been referred to the Hon. Solicitor at the instance of Mr. Jast, and the matter will probably come up at the December meeting.

The small attendance at this meeting is a certain sign that members are beginning to tire of the inability or indifference of the Council in the matter of arranging an attractive programme of discussions for the session. It looks as if another series of stop-gap papers, as in last session, were to be placed before members. We understand that some difficulty is experienced in inducing capable librarians to write anything, and it can hardly be otherwise, when well-written and able papers are deliberately suppressed, either at the instance of the Council, or some kind of mysterious "editorial discretion" which has been suddenly discovered as a convenient screen for indecision. This is the first time we ever heard of a Council shifting its responsibilities on to the shoulders of a minor officer, and it is anything but an edifying spectacle to see a powerful Association unable to make up its mind to a definite policy. If members who read papers on library work are to be left in doubt as to whether or not their contributions will ever be printed, and at best can only expect to be handed over to the tender mercies of an irresponsible "editorial discretion," then we venture to predict that the Council will be left to whistle for papers, like the Flying Dutchman for wind.



CORRESPONDENCE.

o o o

MANUSCRIPT *v.* PRINTED CATALOGUES.

SIR,—An article in the *Library World* by Mr. Maw, of King's Lynn, on the Card Catalogue has just come to my notice, and I was astonished to find, on looking through the October number, that no one had replied to it. His apparent familiarity with the prize-ring—or does he mix up the Dewey system of classification with the Admiral Dewey method of "knocking-out" old wooden hulks at Manilla?—I will pass over as being beneath serious notice. He is, if I may be excused for saying so, evidently young, or he would surely refrain from attacking things so serious with such levity; things which have stood the test of time and are approved by those who have grown grey in library work. He seems to take it for granted that the new-fangled methods adopted by certain librarians have met with general approval, and that we are waiting for further pearls to be cast before us. He evidently shares with other young librarians a strong conviction that they have only to tell us that we have been working on wrong lines for the past twenty or thirty years for us to take up every

new craze, be it "open access," "class list," "annotations," or "card catalogue instead of printed catalogue."

I could scarcely understand the technical part of the paper, and feel certain that the methods he advocates would result in failure. The work entailed would be greater, and the borrowers would be hopelessly confused. I should like definite information on the following points from Mr. Maw or any other advocate of MS. catalogues:—

1. How is the case of the reader who cannot come to the library to be met?
2. The general circulation of a printed catalogue widely advertises the library; how will this valuable aid be supplied?
3. How, save perhaps in open access libraries, are the wants of large numbers of borrowers to be promptly met?
4. A printed catalogue is a permanent inventory of stock, but a MS. one is liable to accidental or deliberate mutilation. How could this risk be avoided?

As the system Mr. Maw attacks has been found so satisfactory in nearly all the libraries of importance, we should keep clear of new notions like this until they have been thoroughly tested.

CHIEF LIBRARIAN.

SIR,—It is with considerable surprise I read in the October number of the *Library World* your remarks on the Printed *v.* Manuscript Catalogue. You are surely joking when you suggest that a manuscript catalogue can supply the place of a printed one, which a reader can possess for himself and refer to at any moment. Imagine a person, wishing to know if a certain work is in the local library, having to trot to the building in order to consult a manuscript catalogue, and, on arriving there, to find a dozen borrowers, more or less, attempting to consult simultaneously an unwieldy manuscript catalogue in book form. If on cards they would be no better off, as only *one* entry can be seen at a time. How is the manuscript catalogue to work in an evening? What period of life do you allot to one, and how can it possibly compare in neatness, compactness, and clearness with a printed catalogue? For the past twelve months, for certain reasons, such as want of books, I have been without a printed catalogue, and, although possessing one on cards and in book form (MS.), there has been a continual demand for a printed catalogue from all classes of borrowers. This, with the open access system in addition!

I should not care to be the unlucky librarian posted behind a counter (and no free access) for twelve months with only a manuscript catalogue (or even three or four) to satisfy my readers. Of course, no librarian is, I think, or should be, without a card catalogue, but the great bulk of the contents of a Public Library, as a foundation, should be in the form of a printed catalogue.

Brighouse Public Library.

J. A. WROE.



A LITERARY TREASURY.

o o o

THE idea of making a representative selection from literature has at various times occupied the attention of different authors, and we have, as a result, such books as Chambers' "Cyclopædia of English Literature," Duyckinck's "Cyclopædia of American Literature," and innumerable "Casquets," "Cabinets," and other garnerings of national literature. A collection or anthology of literature taking the whole world as its field of selection is somewhat of a novelty, and this we find accomplished in "The Library of Famous Literature," edited by Dr. Richard Garnett, C.B. (whose portrait we give on opposite page), with the aid of some associate editors. This is a much larger and more comprehensive work than anything heretofore attempted, and gains immensely in value and interest from the fact that the selections are made by experts in every department. Again, the extracts are something more than mere snippets; they are actually complete efforts of the author represented, and give an excellent idea of his or her style and chief characteristics. Then, again, there are valuable special essays by some of the leading authors and critics of the day on aspects of literature, historical epochs, and phases of literary effort, of great aid to the interpretation of the contents of the work and of intense interest from the critical point of view.

The work is complete in twenty handsome volumes, printed upon a paper made specially, and is illustrated with nearly 500 full-page pictures and coloured plates. These illustrations are apt and interesting, often rare and quaint. There are portraits of all the most famous authors who ever lived; there is a delightful series of pictures of authors' homes and a still more novel series of famous authors in their homes, seated by their study tables, amid their books, at work. So, too, their haunts are shown, the scenes of memorable passages in their books, and places celebrated in literature or in history. The coloured plates, running through every volume, form one of the most notable features of the "Library." They have been gathered from rare sources, and comprise some of the most exquisite specimens of the antique art of book illumination, which flourished centuries ago, when books were made by hand, and the transcription of a single volume often represented the labour of years.

We strongly recommend every librarian to send to the *Standard* office, 23, St. Bride Street, London, E.C., for a complete prospectus of the work, because for reference purposes it will be found interesting and useful, while as a supplement to authors already in part represented in the library it is very valuable. The work may be purchased for £6 16s. in one payment, or may be paid in fifteen monthly payments, ranging from 9s. to 21s., according to binding. It is needless to add that any work produced under the direction of Dr. Garnett will be marked by thoroughness, good taste, and catholicity.



DR. RICHARD GARNETT, C.B.
LATE KEEPER OF THE PRINTED BOOKS IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM
EDITOR IN CHIEF OF THE NEW
"LIBRARY OF FAMOUS LITERATURE"

THE FLOOD OF FICTION: A CRITIC'S COMPLAINT.

THE cry is still "They come! they come!
 Romances, novels, tales and stories,
 Some treat of street, or slum, and some
 Of courtly scenes and regal glories.
 More? more?—Well, well! a book's a book,
 Sublime or simple, dull or clever,
 And, like the Tennysonian brook,
 Our book-supply goes on for ever;
 No pause, no limit, no restriction,
 One vast, unending, stream of Fiction.

Whence come they? Whither do they go?
 And why are authors so prolific?
 A million books a year, or so,
 Four thousand novelists—terrific!
 It stuns us, sweeps us off our feet,
 Like whirling wind, or raging torrent,
 Light reading, once a pastime sweet,
 Is now to me a task abhorrent;
 No blessing, but a sore affliction,
 This overwhelming mass of Fiction.

Like flowers that quickly bud and bloom,
 'Then droop and fade and fall to pieces,
 Most novels meet an early doom,
 Their glory in a season ceases;
 Some seem like Dickens up-to-date,
 While some are tinged with Scott or Lytton,
 But, ah! so few are truly great,
 We wonder why the rest were written;
 Unmarked in subject, style, or diction,
 They form the rank and file of Fiction.

The volumed avalanche descends,
 The motley printed pile grows higher,
 Wherein the bulk of Fiction blends
 With Truth—(itself too oft a liar)—
 Adventures, travels, memoirs, "lives,"
 With scandal their effect enhancing;
 Munchausen's spirit still survives,
 And much of history's mere romancing;
 Thus even Truth, against conviction,
 May swell the seething tide of Fiction.

WALTER PARKE.

NOTABLE LIBRARIES.

o o o

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY OF ABERDEEN.

By JOHN W. WISHART,

(Continued from page 144).

Marischal College Buildings, *i.e.* the second and more modern portion of the University are situated in Broad Street, Aberdeen. Their site is the same as that which they originally occupied, *viz.* : the conventual buildings and grounds of the Grey Friars or Franciscan Monastery, which accounts for the proximity of the Grey-friar's Church within what is now the College Quadrangle. The Library of this Quadrangle, entering the central door of the Mitchell Tower, thus reaching the vestibule in which the famous stone (the only remnant of the original College Buildings in the new Town) with the inscription passing up the flight of stairs leading to the Picture Gallery and Mitchell—"they haif said : quhat say they : let them say," is to be seen, thence Hall—the latter being a piece of architectural excellence well worth a visit. The library door is on the left of the landing at the head of the stairs already mentioned, and the books contained in it belong to the Departments of Agriculture, Law, Medicine, and Natural Science.

The history of the Marischal College Library is not so interesting as that of King's College—yet some pleasure will be derived from a short perusal of the same. In 1624, Thomas Reid, "Secretary to His Majesty for the Latine tongue," bequeathed his library and a sum of money (yielding 600 merks yearly) to pay the salary of the librarian, "and whose duty shall be to hold his door open four days a week for the scholars and clergy to have the use of the books of the said bibliothek, and in no ways to be astricted in no further duty. In 1641, the widow of the first Professor of Mathematics, presented "the hail mathematically bookes" of her husband. In 1669, W. Leslie sent "from Breda in Holland, sex score of verie choice books." In 1700, the Synod of Aberdeen granted 1,000 merks Scots out of the vacant rents of the Profession of Divinity "for buying books and setting up a Theological Librarie for the use and benefitte of the students.....these in the Librarie not being very usefull for the business of such as apply themselves to the study of Divinity." In 1719, subscriptions were asked for the fitting up of a part of the new buildings as a library, "the books now lying in a perishing condition in the ruinous old buildings." In 1736, the authorities of King's College raised an action against Marischal College, seeking legal declaration : (1) That they, the King's College, are one of the *four* Universities of Scotland ; (2) That the Marischal College is no Universty ; (3) That consequently the King's College alone is entitled to receive the Stationers' Hall books. This affray was decided in favour of King's College. In 1827-8, the number of volumes in the Library was about 11,000, In 1845 the Library was injured by fire and the sum of £45 was paid Professor

Cruikshank for trouble in rearranging the books. In 1851, Professor Cruikshank reported that he spent 1,200 hours in arranging books after the fire, and in completing the catalogue begun by Professor Knight.

In 1859 and 1860, the two Colleges were united and consequently the two libraries also. In 1862 the first printed catalogue was issued, and in 1868-9 an author catalogue of the books was compiled and printed by Avery & Co., Aberdeen, at a cost of £293. In 1871, King's College Library was insured for £10,000, and Marischal College Library for £2,000. The years 1873 and 1874, saw £2,100 spent in the purchase of books for the various departments.

At the present day the Library is composed of over 125,000 volumes. On an average over 1,500 volumes—of which some 700 are presented—are added yearly. Persons entitled to borrow books are: (1) Members of Senatus, University Lecturers and Librarian—twenty-five volumes each; (2) Principals or Professors emeriti—15 volumes; (3) Members of the University Court, University Assistants, Assistant Librarians, and Extra-Academical Teachers recognised by University Court—10 volumes each; (4) Examiners—6 volumes each; (5) Students—3 or 6, or 9 or 12 volumes, according as they deposit £1 or £2, £3 or £4; (6) Members of the General Council—6 or 12 volumes, according as they pay an annual subscription of 10/6 or £1 1s., or a life composition fee of £5 5s. or £10 10s.; (7) Members of the General Councils of the other Scottish Universities, as (6) except that a life composition fee cannot be received; (8) Persons engaged in literary research, to whom the Library Committee may grant the use of the library as (7). A reader is entitled to retain volumes borrowed by him for two weeks. Any reader failing to return books before the commencement of the annual inspection, or when called upon by the librarian, subjects himself to a fine of 1s. per volume (and in case of books of special permission 2s. per volume) with a weekly repetition of the fine until each volume is returned, or until a copy of the work of the same edition, and of equal value has been placed, at the expense of the borrower, in the library in its stead. An annual inspection of the library takes place on 23rd (or 24th) September to 3rd October inclusive, and all books whatsoever, by whomsoever borrowed, must be returned to the library before the commencement of this period.

A daily exchange of books between the two portions of the library has been arranged, so that volumes borrowed from either King's College or Marischal College may be left by readers at the other. Lists of all additions to the library are posted up at short intervals in both colleges, and a list of additions during each year is issued as a supplement to the Calendar of the University. The library and reading-rooms in both colleges are open on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; except during the Christmas Vacation and the months of August and September, when they are only open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on three days in each college, the days alternating.

The revenues of the library are: (1) An annual Parliamentary grant of £640, in lieu of the Stationers' Hall privilege enjoyed from 1708 to 1836. (2) Certain funds amounting to about £200 annually. (3) The annual subscriptions and the composition fees paid by readers. (4) By Ordinance No. 26 of the University Commissioners (1889), the General Fund of the University is directed to be applied *inter alia* to "providing for the equipment and upkeep" of the library. The library is, and has been for a number of years, in a very flourishing condition. This is mainly due to the untiring efforts and able management of the Librarian, Mr. P. J. Anderson, M.A., and of the Assistant Librarian, Mr. C. Michie, M.A., together with the aid of capable subordinates. Perhaps we might be allowed to venture a suggestion to authors and others interested in libraries which are wholly or partly devoted to helping students of every grade and degree. An enormous number of new text-books and manuals, as well as new editions of well-established works, are produced annually. Not only is this the case, but library authorities have a very delicate and difficult duty to perform in choosing the volumes which they think will prove most serviceable to their readers, especially when they have only limited funds at their command. We consider it a pity therefore that authors of such standard text-books only occasionally seem to realise that a copy of their work presented to the library of a university is one of the best forms of advertising both their book and their fame. No doubt during a student's life means are oftener wanting than dreams, but after a student graduates, and finds himself in a good position, he almost invariably forms a library, and, in doing so, often chooses the books he has seen and read in the library of his Alma Mater. In this way the generous author is more than repaid for the specimen copy presented to the library of any university.



THE PUBLIC LIBRARY AGE LIMIT.

o o o

By FRANK E. CHENNELL, *Librarian, Willesden Green.*

THERE is a matter connected with the rules of our libraries which should, I think, receive greater attention from librarians. I refer to the age limits at which admission to the privileges of the Lending Department can be exercised. During recent years strenuous efforts have been made to bring the scholars of the Board Schools into closer relationship with Public Libraries. In many instances the income of central libraries have been depleted to provide supplies of books for the schools. Nevertheless, despite these efforts, the majority still adhere to a rule excluding juveniles under the age of fourteen (in some rules sixteen) from the use of the library. One of the largest Public Libraries in London fixes the age for admission at

fifteen, and persons under that age desirous of borrowing have first to obtain the express permission of the librarian.

It might be mentioned that the catalogue of this institution contains lists of children's stories by Mrs. Ewing, Mrs. Molesworth, the ever-green Hans Andersen, and a host of other collections of fairy tales, &c., the provision of which is hardly consistent with the high age limit fixed by the rules.

The British public cries out periodically against the sale of pernicious "penny shockers," and the librarian, with his lofty ideals concerning healthy literature, joins the outcry, forgetting that the doors of the institution he governs—an institution which should supply the antidote to the poison—are fast barred against the young aspirant, because, forsooth, his years have not kept pace with his intellect! There can be no doubt that numbers of this class of youngster are ruined intellectually by the literary fare forced upon them, partly by their exclusion from the library, and in part by the attractiveness of the stuff placed before them by the wily publisher. When one of these youths reaches the age which permits him to make use of the Public Library, so vitiated has his mind become that exciting, healthy, historical stories by Henty, Fenn, and others of our foremost writers for lads are to him but literary milk and water; and after a time he is discovered slyly asking an assistant for "Deadwood Dick," "Sixteen-String Jack," or some such trash. This class of lad was once neatly depicted in the pages of *Punch*. The boy is pictured deep in the pages of one of the above-mentioned classics, and nominally in charge of a hydraulic lift. In response to an inquiry from one of a dozen waiting and long-suffering persons, as to when the lift would next ascend, the *gamin*, without removing his eyes from the engrossing page, replies, "At the end o' the next chapter!" It is not too much to affirm that the abrogation or lowering of the age limit would possibly have been the means of attracting many a young reader to the library, and of directing his reading into healthier and better channels.

The earlier a youngster can be induced to take an interest in the library the better. It is, of course, admitted that the budding young man is a nuisance in the reading-rooms often purely from excess of animal spirits. His exclusion from these departments is not called in question. The establishment of juvenile rooms has done much to compensate for this restriction. It is in the Lending Department that I venture to think so much good might be accomplished by making the rule respecting the age for admission more elastic.

So soon as a boy, or a girl, evinces a genuine desire to use this section of the library, at that instant every facility should be afforded—provided, of course, the intending young borrower is recommended by either parents or schoolmaster.

Many libraries have lowered the age limit to eight years, and at Willesden Green there are juveniles of eight and nine years of age and upwards, who regularly use the Lending Department. Their tickets are marked J, which restricts them to the use of the juvenile section only, and at the same time prevents their parents, or any older member

of the family, using them as second tickets for another class of literature. The shelves set aside for the use of the children contain nearly 500 volumes of carefully chosen literature by favourite writers for young people.

The committee are convinced that the parents, as well as the juveniles, appreciate this concession, and I need hardly say, as a librarian, I am as genuinely pleased when a wee mite, who barely tops the counter of the Lending Library, requests a book from his section, as when the rare (oh, so rare!) student solicits Spencer's "First Principles," or Darwin "On Earth-worms." In the one case it is perchance the awakening germ, and in the other the developing plant.

One thing is certain : a concession such as I have mentioned with respect to age, and a few copies of the catalogue of the juvenile section sent to the Board Schools of the district served by the library, would do much to cement the desired relationship between two great educational agencies.

Under the concession, the youth probably leaves school with a cultivated taste for reading, and continues to use his ticket for other classes of literature. Under the operation of the late age limit he cannot commence borrowing till school is left behind. This commencement is too often delayed, or never made. Other attractions of a new life open out to the lad, until the inclination for study or serious reading gradually grows less, or perchance entirely disappears.



THE CLASSIFICATION OF FICTION.

o o o

By E. A. BAKER, M.A.,

Librarian of the Midland Railway Institute, Derby.

III.

MR. J. D. BROWN'S able and suggestive article in last month's *Library World*, being mainly a criticism of methods proposed by me for dealing with works of fiction, would have called for a reply even had I not desired to add some observations to my former papers on the subject. So urgent is the question as to what general policy should be followed that I shall dismiss the natural hesitation one feels in replying to criticism, even when the defects alleged in a work arise chiefly from differing principles. Annotations and classifications of fiction will doubtless be used a good deal in the immediate future ; and it is wisest at this stage to discuss thoroughly the various ways of doing the work, and to clear up differences of opinion that might become serious stumbling-blocks.

I am bound, in the first place, cordially to acknowledge the kind manner of Mr. Brown's review. There was but one portion of which I could possibly complain as unkind, and that was his exaggeration of

the importance given to what he calls doubtful fiction. Otherwise his appreciation of my little handbook* was always generous, and as fair as any criticism can be that starts by assuming a totally different aim than was present in the compiler's mind. With regard to the minor errors singled out by him I wish to say very little. The handbook was put forward as a tentative production, and nobody is more keenly aware than I of its imperfections. Even so, it must be said that several of these were not slips, but attempts to save expense in cross-references and the like; while in the same category should be placed the abbreviations, in themselves as obnoxious to me as to anyone.

Unfortunately, Mr. Brown and I are at variance on questions of principle. He makes three charges against the handbook, any of which, if valid, would detract very seriously from its utility. The first is that "the whole plan of the book is wrong"; the next that a wrong system of annotation is adopted; and the third that "it is a perfect storehouse of information about the doubtful novels which the British Philistine delights to revile for their indecency, irrespective of their merits as masterpieces of literature." Mr. Brown seems to plume himself as a champion of the British Philistines; but, undismayed by the wind of this ponderous javelin, I will endeavour to meet him on the ground he has himself marked out.

He considers that to classify works of fiction is a mistake, and it must be admitted that such a contention seems at first sight eminently reasonable. There is really no natural form of classification for novels or for the products of any other fine art, such at least as applies to scientific, historical, and geographical works. My scheme is admittedly a makeshift, designed to afford readers a handy means of surveying the immense field of romance. If one could parcel out this huge territory into definite regions, and call them "the novel of manners," "the love story," "the romance of adventure," and other names that seem to have a clear denotation, it would be far better; but in practice this turns out to be impossible. Another way would be to group your novels by the period and the nationality of your author. For a general handbook to all important works of fiction this might be appropriate, since a tabular history could thus be presented. But in dealing with the possessions of a particular library which could not be regarded as fully representative of the history of fiction, I still think the classified scheme would be of most use to readers. One immense advantage it affords is that all the novels depicting a certain period are grouped together; Fielding is offered as a commentary on Besant and Reade; Madame d'Arblay and Goldsmith as correctives to Thackeray and Weyman. Even at the expense of wholesale repetition I should be inclined to append this historical section, whatever plan were adopted. Mr. Brown holds that "a fiction catalogue should be arranged by authors, the interest in the personality of novelists being so keen." If by this sentence he means that a merely alphabetical list is the best, then I would point to the author-index as in itself almost a sufficient reply to an opinion that I do not think many librarians would share.

*"Descriptive Handbook to Works of Prose Fiction in the Midland Railway Institute." Derby, 1899.

The very slight advantage an alphabetical list has over an author-index in the matter of ready reference, is many times outweighed by the clearness and suggestiveness of a classed arrangement. Moreover, an alphabetical arrangement is no arrangement at all in the true sense of the word. Whilst the plan adopted by me allows information to be conveyed by position alone, thus saving space in notes and gaining greatly in lucidity, Mr. Brown's method would involve a full note for every book. For example, his proposed note for "Robert Helmont" adds nothing of moment to what is told by the heading "Franco-German War," under which it falls; while the reader, "interested in a personality," who wants to read some representative works of Daudet, would be grateful for the statement, which scandalises Mr. Brown, "not worthy of the author of 'Tartarin.'" The popular curiosity about personalities hardly needs to be fostered in a work of this kind. Cultured readers are interested as often in a school of writers—a literary *genre*—in studies of particular peoples and tendencies, as in individual authors; and the various literary affinities are more easily pointed out by means of some classification. Wherefore be guided entirely by the reader that does not think his education complete until he has read every single work of Miss Braddon, of Mrs. Henry Wood, or of Miss Marie Corelli? Many books, again, are of no intrinsic value except for the light they throw on particular times or places. Would Mr. Brown put these into his annotated list of authors' works with nothing to distinguish them from masterpieces? For should he attempt to make any kind of selection, he would clearly be "inflicting his personal opinions upon his readers," a proceeding he regards with professional horror; whilst he dare not make any difference between an author's good and bad books, because he must be "never critical."

For I have now to bear the brunt of the second charge—that my annotations were mainly critical, whereas in Mr. Brown's opinion "criticism is quite out of place in a descriptive handbook of fiction intended chiefly to show the *information* to be derived from novels." The circumstance that many analytical or descriptive notes were couched in critical language, or rather that criticism and analysis were blended for the sake of brevity, has, I think, given Mr. Brown an exaggerated idea of the amount of criticism contained in the handbook. Yet that, being a personal matter, may be neglected, since the important point is to decide whether a handbook should or should not contain critical matter at all. From detached expressions we may sketch a rough outline of what Mr. Brown thinks a handbook to fiction ought to be. As already remarked, it should be arranged by authors. The notes should be entirely descriptive—I use that adjective for the sake of argument, to exclude critical description—they should aim to set forth the information to be found in novels; and there should be full indexes, minutely analytical, pointing out to the reader, for instance, all the novels in the library referring to any one definite place such as Cuba. Though I had not attempted such an elaborate index as this, I agree with Mr. Brown that a perfect handbook ought to be equipped with very full indexes of subject: I hope

someone will undertake the vast labour these would involve. Yet, divorced entirely from literary criticism, what would this handbook be but an encyclopædic index to facts that are at best doubtful facts, to descriptions that are artistic rather than accurate, to history that is at the mercy of a story-teller's plot? Adhering strictly to his rule not to be critical, Mr. Brown would not allow himself the liberty of warning the reader that "Woodstock" or "Quentin Durward" is not accurate historically, or that "Lorna Doone" pictures an Exmoor that is a mere idealisation. The insatiable devourer of novels, who thinks himself well informed on the strength of this most facile study, and shrinks from a book of travel or anything that he calls "dry," is patted on the back by Mr. Brown, and promised a subject-index that shall enable him to use works of fiction as a complete reference library, and as compendiums of knowledge for home reading. I am far indeed from despising the "informative and educational value" of fiction, which, however, resides not in its facts, but in its imaginative painting; yet I should regard a handbook, whose only function was "to show the *information* to be derived from novels," as a snare. I believe, in common with many other old-fashioned people, that novels are chiefly of importance as literature; and, if we be right, a handbook to fiction must be primarily a critical guide, and only secondarily a help to young people in finding the romances that make periods of history live, and paint with alluring colours the dull framework of geography. Readers want to know, first of all, whether a novel is a good one and interesting; that is at least as important as telling them what the subject is. In fact, the two should be combined; the notes should be, in the proper sense of the phrase, descriptive—that is, both analytical and critical. How can you describe a novel at all without criticising? Would you set down the contents of, say, "Donovan" in terms that would do for "John Ward, Preacher," the different circumstances being unessential; or make no critical distinction between Mrs. Henry Wood and Charlotte Brontë? It seems to me that the true aim of a guide should be to present in a nutshell the pith of the numerous trustworthy descriptions that are scattered about in various reviews, histories of literature, and essays, thus helping readers to find the best in the authors they know, and pointing the way to others as yet unknown. To say that "it is utterly futile to set up a standard of taste in fiction," is to ignore that there are standards of taste in all branches of literature—that is to say, in the acknowledged masterpieces. True, there is no published code of literary canons, but there is a traditional body of precepts and judgments, which, like the Common Law, commands the assent of the majority of critics from generation to generation. The notes in a handbook of this small size are too general in scope to trespass beyond such wide, authoritative views; there is no room for personal whimsies. Moreover, the sheer breadth of the survey, embracing as it does the literary productions of many epochs and many countries, precludes such narrowness of judgment, enforces a certain perspective: it is the man with a mania for one author who is subject to these caprices of taste. I am not

defending my own annotations, which it would not become me to do, but asserting the need for criticism in a literary guide, and its validity. If any future compiler neglect the literary element, if he fail to devote the necessary time and labour to collating the best opinions, studying works of the most diversified kinds, and seeking in every way to correct and discipline his personal judgment and widen his outlook, then he had better forsake the task—or crib from someone more conscientious.

Mr. Brown's third criticism is of a damaging kind, being an appeal to prejudice. He accuses me of "picking out for special mention," and giving "undue prominence" to "analyses of morbid sexual phenomena," that "have not the slightest value to anybody, and, beyond ministering to the needs of a particular type of reader, might as well remain unwritten." Prejudice underlines every significant word of the phrases just quoted. Without of course departing from his habitual sincerity and good faith, my censor has distorted the character of the handbook and misconstrued my intent. Anyone who had not seen the handbook would gather that it contained a number of prurient books, and that these were advertised to the general reader. As a matter of fact, care has been taken that books not *virginibus puerisque* should be dealt with in an unostentatious manner. Books like the one he refers to of Mr. Gissing's are in every library; they are read by honest men who believe that these social problems must be discussed, but it is not desirable that they should be picked up by women and young people in ignorance of their contents. To let them pass without note would be mischievous; and would it be more expedient to put them in a separate index? I deny altogether that the catalogue contains any works that can be called prurient. Certainly, I would refrain from putting the two books singled out by Mr. Brown into everyone's hands. But they are in French, and such French as is not likely to be tackled by the young student. Though I would hesitate to place translations of these books on the shelf of a lending library, I must respectfully submit that Mr. Brown's characterisation of Anatole France's novels is a clever travesty; and, if any man suspects M. Bourget's moral purpose, let him ponder the eloquent preface to "Le Disciple," a masterpiece that undoubtedly challenges Mr. Brown's sweeping condemnation. He declares: "Every man is his own psychologist, and has no need for the subtle analytical wit of Daudet, France, Bourget, &c." Already he has suggested that every man is his own critic, and therefore critics and reviewers are useless persons; now we learn that we each possess still subtler faculties. Every man his own psychologist!—just grasp the profundity of this aphorism, and see how the difficulties of our problem melt away. Meredith and Henry James, the two most intellectual novelists of contemporary England; Anatole France and Bourget, the reigning favourites of intellectual coteries abroad; W. D. Howells, Nathaniel Hawthorne, George Eliot too, I suppose; and the most prominent school of young writers, Benjamin Swift, Francis Prevost, John Oliver Hobbes, and how many others—not to mention Björnson in his later works, d'Annunzio, and Ibsen, the inspirer of so much prose fiction—all these

are at once swept away as unworthy of that man's attention who is his own psychologist. After this Mr. Brown may well say that one man's view "does not necessarily represent what others may think." But works of fiction are read by one for amusement, by another for information, but by most serious people for the sake of their imaginative truth and "criticism of life." And, if life is principally conduct, writers of fiction will be justified in treating of those moral questions that beset every thoughtful mind, and libraries cannot ignore them in the summary manner proposed.

Mr. Brown's remark has taken me away from the immediate topic to the question of what a library ought to contain, and in this respect I am as much concerned as he is with the need for studying the character of the readers. If a library is used largely by the young, obviously it must avoid certain classes of fiction with the utmost care. If, on the other hand, the *clientèle* be composed of men who are their own psychologists—well, I hardly think the fiction question would worry them at all.

I am sorry this paper has been forced to take a controversial shape. It is not that I am ungrateful for Mr. Brown's criticism, which was fully as complimentary as I deserved. Criticism is most necessary and salutary, and it is to be hoped that every point raised by either of us may be discussed in all its bearings, with a view to making more perfect the annotated catalogues of the near future.

[By the courtesy of the Editor I have been allowed to see Mr. Baker's lengthy response to my remarks upon his "Handbook to Fiction," but I am not prepared at present to carry out the suggestion to reply to the article in full. It is a good thing to draw forth fair and many-sided criticism on any subject, and I hope this particular question will be thoroughly threshed out. Anything I have to say on the principles which, in my opinion, ought to regulate the compilation of annotated lists of fiction for public use I shall reserve for a future occasion. I have some very admirable ideas on the subject, which I think Mr. Baker will appreciate when he knows them. I am rather sorry if I have conveyed the impression that the Derby handbook swarms with entries of prurient novels. Mr. Baker seems to think I have, but I did not mean to do so, and I cannot find any ground for such an assumption in my notice. I objected to certain notes on such novels, and quoted several in proof of my remarks; but surely these can never be held to apply to the bulk of the contents of the handbook. When I served in the Army, or, rather, in that part of it which is unpaid—the Volunteers—I was struck by a remark of an old sergeant-instructor, whose practical good sense rose superior to the theory of the manual of infantry instruction then in vogue. He said: "The whole art o' war is no tae get killed," a maxim which ought to be printed in plain letters (invisible to an enemy at 100 yards) on the

rifle or helmet of every soldier in South Africa. The particular application of this maxim to Mr. Baker's position in regard to critical estimates of novels is this: the use of criticism in library catalogues is a plain invitation to the enemy to shoot at a person who exposes himself in the open to attack from all sides. It may be a very bold proceeding, but in the opinion of many it is neither prudent nor of much avail. Every librarian may not possess Mr. Baker's abnormal critical faculty; hence the need for cover when one does not want to be killed. Fact is much safer refuge than opinion, and, while it is possible to find several librarians and their readers agreeing as to the former, it would be a miracle if any two agreed as to the latter.—
J. D. BROWN.]



A PEEP INTO A PRISON LIBRARY.

*By WILLIAM HARVEY. Chief Clerk to H.M. Prison Commissioners
for Scotland.*

o o o

SO changed is the treatment of the prisoner since Charles Reade wrote about him that, when Mr. Punch suggests that the chief ground of the present-day prisoner's complaint is that his dinner *menu* is written in French, and that he can't understand it, he is really not guilty of very gross exaggeration; though Lord Balfour of Burleigh's recent confession that a fellow Scot in durance vile had complained to him that he could not get the works of his beloved Robbie Burns, certainly indicated the existence of a grievance at least as hard to be endured.

The extreme variety in the characters of the readers in these highly prized libraries makes the selection of books a matter which requires very delicate handling. A large percentage of the prisoners are unable to make use of works which contain what is commonly called "stiff" reading; another section, being Irish and Roman Catholic, must have books which contain no attack upon the doctrines, customs, or priests of their Church. "Romola" may not be issued to a Catholic prisoner because it records Savonarola's declaration that "a man without virtue may be Pope"; "Esmond," too, would be placed on the priest's "Index," because those portions of the story which deal with the duplicity of Father Holt and his fellow-workers for the Stuart cause might be read as an attack on Catholics in general. (Pity the poor Catholic, who is thus debarred from reading two of the finest works in the English language: this is indeed a grievance!) Care must also be taken that no book is admitted which is calculated to undermine the influence of the chaplains of the

Reformed Churches ; but there is less danger in this respect in a country where the majority of authors are Protestant. Suitable intellectual food must be provided also for the many really cultured men in confinement (there are not many cultured women). Then, again, there must be a few books in the library of a very special kind, such as Italian books for the *real* Italian organ-grinder, whose native facility for using a knife has brought him into trouble ; and books in the Braille or Moon type for the use of the blind beggar who occasionally is provided with free board and lodgings for a month or two in return for some act of "commandeering" of property to which somebody else thought he had a better right. Even the wandering Jew comes in for a share of this special attention.

The general idea governing the selection of books for these libraries is, however, that the books should be interesting, instructive, and elevating in their tendency, but that the selection should not admit of a prisoner entertaining the belief that he is reading in a place where he has at command the "hop, skip, and jump" style of literature which is the delight of mental loafers in all classes outside. The fashionable, exciting novel, and the poisonous French importations, or morbid and gruesome home-made specimens of modern fiction are therefore rigidly excluded. But standard works, such as Darwin's "Naturalist's Voyage," Nansen's "Farthest North," "The Last Days of Pompeii," and "David Copperfield," are in circulation ; and a keen eye is kept on all the latest publications of works of biography, travel, science, history, poetry, and even fiction, so that books calculated to meet the end in view may from time to time be added to the general catalogue, which contains the names of all those books approved by the authorities as suitable for issue to the inmates of "Her Majesty's hotels."

WE regret to announce the death of **Sir Henry Tate**, who is identified with various movements for the public good. Librarians will remember him as the generous donor of fine library buildings at Lambeth and Streatham. The general public will remember him as the donor of the magnificent Tate Gallery in South-west London, for the exhibition of pictures by modern masters.

Mr. G. M. Fraser, of Aberdeen, has been appointed Librarian of the Aberdeen Public Library. He was for thirteen years on the staff of the *Aberdeen Free Press* and *Evening Gazette*, but had no practical library experience. The selected candidates for this post, in addition to Mr. Fraser, were Robert Adams, of the Mitchell Library, Glasgow ; John Minto, M.A., Perth ; David Cuthbertson, Edinburgh ; Robert Wilson, Sub-Librarian, Edinburgh ; William Mutch, Aberdeen, and Sept. Pitt, Sub-Librarian, Aberdeen.

LOCAL COLLECTIONS IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

o o o

By ARCHIBALD SPARKE, *City Librarian, Carlisle.*

"No Public Library can now be considered complete until it possesses as perfect a collection of local histories and literature as opportunity and means will afford."—*Greenwood's "Public Libraries."*

EVERY Public Library has, or should have, a space set apart for a "collection of local literature," and I daresay that most librarians hold certain opinions on what they mean by local literature. Many eagerly pounce upon anything which bears the name of the town or county in which his library is situated, while others collect only books.

It will be my endeavour in the course of this article to show what it may be best for librarians to aim at, also where to obtain local literature and how to place it before the public.

1. *As to what should constitute a local collection.*

Printed books which deal exclusively with the county or town would be the foundation of the local library, and must be the primary consideration when the formation of the collection is undertaken. They should include county histories, histories of any part of the county, local pamphlets, tracts, and directories, also Acts of Parliament, periodical articles, transactions of societies, &c., which are pertinent to the town or county. Reports of public bodies such as County, Town, Rural, and District Councils, Infirmary, Asylum, Hospital, and Sanitary Committees, Criminal Statistics, and so forth should also be secured. I would exclude general Gazetteers which only include the county incidentally.

2. *Biographies of inhabitants* should be added, as they are elements of local history. It is often difficult in this section to discriminate what should be respected. I consider it is of little use to keep a book that mentions the fact of Mary Jones having slept at such a town one night, or that Charles I. stayed here or Cromwell stabled his horses there. I think the class should be made up of biographies of persons who were natives or had more or less to do with the town or county; I would not include the "Dictionary of National Biography," or any general biographical dictionary in this collection.

3. *All locally printed books except sermons.* These, I consider, have no claim to admittance to a local collection unless they refer to the death of an inhabitant or mark an event of local interest; also I exclude speeches which have no other claim than that they were delivered in the county.

4. *Works by local authors.* This class is the debatable ground of a local collection. It seems unnecessary to include a volume simply because it is written by an inhabitant of the county. I cannot see that the inclusion of all books written by local authors would serve any

useful purpose, therefore I would retain only such as come under the head of No. 3 or are of local biographical value.

5. *Prints and views of old houses, scenery, and portraits* of town or county notables I would collect, also autographs and autograph letters, if time and money can be spent in their purchase.

6. *Local MSS.* I would eagerly look for, especially those bearing upon the history of the county, transcripts of parish registers, copies of deeds and wills, diaries of local men and women, pedigrees, genealogies and minute books of various local societies. Programmes of concerts, band contests, distributions of certificates, invitation cards, and such like should not be included, but Parish Magazines which contain antiquarian matter or local history should be secured.

Where local books may be found is known to most of us, but the columns of the *Bookseller* and the *Publishers' Circular* are not so much used by librarians as would be expected. Clegg, in his "Directory of Second-hand Booksellers," gives a list of wants applicable to certain libraries, and many second-hand booksellers are glad to furnish reports. A printed postcard setting forth what is wanted, and posted to the second-hand booksellers, would bring in plenty of reports; then last, but not least, are second-hand catalogues, which should be read carefully through.

Pamphlet cases will be found of immense service for the filing of reports. In order that they may be obtained on publication I would advise the keeping of a list of approximate dates of issue, which would bring to mind the necessity of applying for the new report. Such reports should be bound every five or ten years, and carefully lettered on the back of the volume, giving title and dates.

It is somewhat difficult to decide how to deal with pamphlets, these forming so large a portion of the literature of a local collection. When of fair thickness the best plan is to bind the pamphlet in a cheap form, such as boards with marble paper sides and cloth back, the latter being lettered lengthwise in gold with a short title. Should it be too thin for this treatment, a few or many leaves of blank paper can be inserted at the end to add to the bulk. In all cases the original paper covers should be included. As to those pamphlets which it is desirable to preserve without binding, I advise the use of the dust-proof Marlborough Cases, with an index to the contents written either inside or pasted on the outside of the case.

The provincial press often contains valuable references to local history and societies, and to secure these articles a subscription to one of the large press-cutting agencies will be found beneficial. These, of course, would be carefully preserved in newspaper cutting books, and the index should be kept up-to-date; as a rule, the indexing is forgotten, thus making it laborious to find a particular cutting. All of the libraries, I presume, file and bind the local papers, but, instead of cutting out pars. and articles relating to local history, I would suggest the keeping of an index in an alphabet-paged book, thus:—"Catalogue, Review of, *Battersea Bugle*, page 4, col. 3, Jan. 4/99;" or "Altar, Roman, found at Kendal, *Express*, page 2, col. 1, Nov. 5/99."

The advantages of such an index would soon be apparent, and would be a saving of labour, time, and space.

The catalogue of a local library is very important, and experience teaches that the Card Catalogue is the best ; it is handy and neat, and can be kept up-to-date. No book, MSS., pamphlet, magazine, or report should be allowed to get on the shelves until it has been entered in the catalogue ; in the case of magazines and reports it is simply an alteration or addition of date that will be required.

The catalogue should be a full one, that books of value may not escape readers' notice. To make it interesting and explanatory, notes might be added to the title of a work (when such title gives no evidence of its contents) showing its connection with the locality.



A CONFERENCE OF BOOKS.

By W. S. RAE, Librarian, Public Library, Darwin.

o o o

"I DON'T know why it is," said Peter Simple, "that those of us who are unfortunate enough to find ourselves in a Public Library should be so much ill-used."

"Nor do I," said The Manxman, in a despondent voice. "When I first entered this library my dress, although plain, was very neat and clean ; but now, owing to the treatment I have received from those who read me, you would think I had been out in the rain for a week."

"You have my sympathy," said Guy Fawkes. "I too have had my back smeared with rain, through the carelessness of an old man, who, thinking he had not done me enough damage, dropped some fireworks from his pipe into my inside, which burned me so much that I grew quite warm with anger."

At this point a Prince of the House of David, most of whose pages were held fast by toffee glue from the fingers of a little girl who was given the book to play with while in Sunday-school, managed to articulate, "It has been my lot for some time back to be dragged to school every Sunday by a teacher who, too lazy to prepare a lesson for her scholars, cribbed large portions out of me. Not only this, but when she was finished entertaining her scholars at my expense, I was made the plaything of her class."

"Talking about people handling you with 'sticky' fingers," said An Easy-going Fellow, "reminds me of an incident in my life which I shall never forget."

"Do tell us about it," said Pudd'nhead Wilson, who had been eyeing a £1,000,000 Bank Note for some time in the hope of finding a few thumb-marks on it.

"All right, I will," he said. "Shortly after I had joined you fellows here, the boy belonging to this library who, as you all know, juggles with some of us at times, hauled me off the shelf and taking me to the counter, threw me down in front of a woman who did not appear to be very wealthy but nevertheless was clean and tidy."

"That accounts for the manner in which you were thrown on the counter," said Little Dorrit.

"Perhaps so," said An Easy-going Fellow; "but the worst is still to come. The woman took me away with her in a basket beside some ham, the fat of which had penetrated the paper which covered it, leaving its mark on my face. I had not been in the house more than five minutes when her husband who was a chimney sweep, came in for tea. As it was not ready for him he took me up without having first washed his hands. You have only to look at my present condition to know what happened to me while in the hands of that dirty sweep."

"Hear me, my children," said The Little Minister. "All you have said is too true. I also have come through those troubles and, with a view to putting a stop to them, let me propose that a resolution be drawn up and submitted to the librarian, containing a few hints on how to use us properly. Should he agree to them we might ask him to have the same printed and a copy pasted on each of us."

"Good idea!" said Cleg Kelly, who had had his back broken by a fall from a table where he had been left by a careless young lady. "And who could perform the task better than our good friends The Three Musketeers, who have seen a lot of life and know what trouble is."

* * * * *

Twenty Years after—at least, it appeared to be this length of time—the librarian inserted in each of his books the following "Rules," which are just as they were drawn up by The Three Musketeers:—

Do not touch me unless your hands are clean, and are free from infectious disease.

Do not allow rain-drops to fall on me on my way to or from the library.

Do not lay your coat or jacket sleeves on me, particularly if they are wet from rain.

Do not turn down any of my leaves, use a proper book-mark.

Do not wet your fingers or thumb to turn my leaves over.

Do not handle me roughly, or let me fall, or you will certainly break my back or sides.

Do not allow ash to fall on me from your pipe, cigar, or cigarette.

Do not use me as a missile.

Do not keep me open with a tea cup, beer jug, or any heavy article.

Do not drop bread-crumbs in my leaves.

Do not abuse me in any way. I am *Human*, because I represent a large portion of my Author's mind.

Treat me as you would treat your Sweetheart, and all will be well.

THE LIBRARY STAFF.

THIS DEPARTMENT is conducted for the special, but not exclusive, benefit of the earnest and studious Library Assistant, who is determined to make his or her way in the profession of Librarianship. An effort will be made to cover in a gradual and complete manner, the whole of the ground occupied by the technical side of the craft, and to enable this to be thoroughly done, brief practical notes of any kind are solicited from assistants or librarians in any sort of library. Ethical disquisitions on deportment and disagreeable controversial notes are not wanted. Every assistant should make a point of sending at least one note annually bearing on the daily routine work of a library. Nothing is too trivial or trite to be thoroughly discussed.

EDITED BY A LANCASHIRE LIBRARIAN.

Mending Torn Leaves.

How to keep down the binding account is a problem which every librarian has to deal with. In those libraries where the rate yields a sum large enough to keep all the books in good condition by re-binding and replacing those which are worn out, the question of expense is very often overlooked; but when a librarian is expected to supply everybody's wants on three or four hundred a year a little economy is necessary. It is in a library whose funds are low that the handy assistant is appreciated. Happy is the librarian who can number among his staff one who is a smart assistant at the counter, a good writer, and an amateur bookbinder. The last two qualifications save many a library the expense of re-binding a book, or purchasing a new copy, when a little paste or a manuscript title-page is all that is required to make a book complete. Most assistants know how to fasten a loose leaf or even a section, but are at a loss when confronted with a torn page, which they generally repair (?) by covering the page with postage stamp borders. It may be useful to our readers if we give a short description of this small but economical detail of library work. When a page has been torn it will be noticed that the paper has generally a bevelled edge. To this edge a thin coating of paste should be applied the whole length of the tear, with a pointed spill of wood or a match, care being taken not to cover more than the fringe of the tear. When this has been carefully done the two parts should be joined together, taking care that the print meets exactly. A piece of tissue paper should then be placed over the whole length of the tear on both sides and the book left closed until the paste dries. When a reasonable time has elapsed the tissue paper is then removed, when it will be noticed that a little of it adheres to the book where the tear was. This not only strengthens the joint, but does not interfere with the reading matter, owing to the thinness of the tissue. We should advise assistants to experiment on a newspaper or any scrap of printed paper which may be at hand, until they can mend a page so well that only by close examination is the repair noticeable.

The L.A. Classes. Do the classes which have been formed by the Library Association do all that was expected of them when first formed, and what their supporters say they do? This is a question which I have asked myself very often, and each time I have been forced to answer in the negative. I do not object to the subjects which are treated in the classes, they are all good and instructive to those employed in libraries, but are too advanced to be useful to an ordinary assistant. I cannot see how "stewing" subjects like "Literary History," and "Bibliography" for three or four months helps assistants to choose a nice love story for a bashful young lady who may ask for this style of novel, which, be it remembered, is by far the commonest kind of question asked at a public library counter. We expect also that our assistants should have a good knowledge of architectural design as applied to libraries, and know all about the laws relating to those institutions. Surely we are going about things in the wrong way. I do not overlook the fact that the syllabus contains information about classes which take up "Cataloguing," "Classification," and "Library Management," but when I come to examine the catalogues, the classification, and how some, and I believe I am right in saying the majority, of our public libraries are managed, it makes me think that those classes should be attended not only by assistants, but by librarians.

Book Numbering & Lettering.
By S. L.

VERY few libraries can afford to support a home bindery, but nearly every library can effect a considerable saving by undertaking the numbering and lettering of its own books. The most economical method is to purchase a sufficient outfit of tools, costing from £7 to £10—although, for a small library, enough can be bought for £4 or £5—and engage a "finisher" for a week or more, according to the number of volumes. A good finisher's wages average from 35/- to 45/- a week; and, with the help of a boy to prepare the books, in a week he will be able to letter and number between 2,000 and 3,000 volumes. This is undoubtedly the cheapest way when there are several thousands of volumes, but it cannot be resorted to for every new volume added to the stock, and as some would prefer to have the work done by the staff, I will describe a *modus operandi*.

The best way to choose the tools is to procure price lists (illustrated) from several manufacturers and dealers. Tastes differ so much that it is impossible to lay down a hard and fast rule to guide the selection, but it may be accepted as a golden precept that the better the quality of the material the better the quality of the work will be. A gas stove is absolutely necessary; oil or spirit lamps for this work are an invention of the evil one, and should be avoided as such. The finishing press should be carefully chosen as a great deal depends on the firmness and evenness of the books while being worked. This press differs from the lying press in its size and slightly in its shape. The latter is heavier and needs to be tightened with an iron lever; but the finishing press is worked altogether by hand. The outsides

of the cheeks slope away, leaving room for the hands when using heated irons.

The figures and letters are after all the most important. And, whatever size is chosen, it is well to remember that a plain block letter does not hold so well nor work so easily as one having a slight finish. Of course, the letters chosen should be in keeping with the size and form of the figures; and they must all be made of brass, gun metal, although a little cheaper, melts at a much lower degree of heat.

Gold is of various qualities, and although the rule for "buying the best" still holds, that at 50/- or 55/- a thousand leaves will be found sufficiently good. Cheaper than this is thick and brittle. In every case English gold must be insisted upon.

Glaire, unless wanted in large quantities, it is better to buy ready made. But powdered albumen is not very successful. It is cheaper in this way, and the only drawback is that it very soon emits a scent, which is not at all delicate, but very penetrating. The making is a tedious, dirty job. Take the clear of two, three, or more eggs, according to the amount of glaire required; add a little vinegar and water, or salt and water; and beat briskly into a froth. The liquid this froth turns to, when allowed to stand, is glaire, and should be poured off. After standing for about twenty-four hours it is ready for use.

A few small pieces of sponge, a cutting board and knife for the gold leaf, some cotton wool, and two or three pieces of prepared rubber, complete the outfit.

It is a mistake for the amateur to practice too long on spare books; knowing the work to be of no importance he becomes careless and slovenly. As soon as possible he should take, not to fine, but to real work.

The first step in the preparation of the books is glairing. Cloth and books bound in the coarser leathers, such as pigskin, usually need this twice; but it depends a great deal upon the absorbent qualities of the material. The operation is rather "nice," and upon it mainly depends the success of the work; but very few attach sufficient importance to it. The glaire is applied to that part of the book to be worked upon, with a small sponge having a close, even surface. It must be gently applied, not rubbed in, or the glaire will not have enough "face," and in many cloth-bound books the colour will run. It must be painted on with a camel hair brush to calf and morocco bound volumes.

While this first coat is drying, the books can be arranged in batches of eight or nine, or as many as the press will hold. And the numbers to be impressed, written out on a slip of paper; making the left-hand volume, when the books are in the press, the first on the list. If there are any very small books, arrange them so that there shall be one between two larger; and raise them in the press until the backs stand well up. The stove can now be lighted and the numbers and letters heated. When the glaire is quite dry the second coat may be applied. This must be allowed to dry but not to harden before the gold is put on.

A few words about handling the gold will save a deal of trouble to the novice. Open the "gold book" at the first page containing a leaf of metal; and with a quick movement turn it face downwards on to the cutting board. Take care to grip the other leaves firmly with the fingers or they will slip and the contents be damaged. If the leaf of gold when left on the board is not quite flat, blow gently upon the centre, not at the edges or the "heaviest of metals" will go floating about in mid-air. This must now be cut up into the requisite sizes. A useful number of squares is sixteen; that is three cuts each way. When cutting, the knife (one having a broad, stiff blade) must be drawn along the whole length, not lifted. These squares of gold can be taken up with a pad of cotton wool; if touched with the fingers they stick, and are rendered useless. To give the wool the necessary stickiness draw it two or three times over the hair. If the gold will not adhere readily to the book, breathe lightly on the glaire.

The bundle of books is now ready for the last stage of the process. Screw them up tightly into the press with their tails (the tail of a book is the bottom of the back) even, if the lower part of the back is to be embellished; but with the heads level if the upper is the space to be covered. The irons (letters and figures), to be of the right heat, should just fiz, except for calf or morocco. For these they should not fiz, or they must be very carefully used. If they hiss or splutter they are too hot. It is only by practice that the necessary touch can be acquired. But what is wanted is a firm, even pressure; heavier or lighter according to the quality of the material.

Rub the waste gold off with a greasy cloth, polish up with the rubber, check the figures, and the work is finished. Frequently boiling the rubber will improve it.

Annual Publications. IN response to your request in a recent number of the "Library Staff" for a description of the manner in which those publications are marked off in libraries, I take the liberty of forwarding the following, which I trust you will find suitable for your column. In our library we have a plain folio book of about 100 pages, ruled as under:—

JANUARY.

SHORT TITLE.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
Hazell's Ann.	4 Jan.	17 Jan.				
Live Stock Jnl. Alm.	2 Jan.	12 Jan.				
Almanach de Gotha	15 Jan.					

The first four pages have been used for an index to the annuals taken by the library; the remaining portion of the book is divided into

twelve equal portions ; each portion, say, six or eight pages, is headed January, February, March, &c. We then enter the publications due in January in the January portion, February under February, and so on. We have by this means what might be called a chronological list of our annual publications. Should we want to know if any particular one has been received, and do not know at what time in the year it is published, the alphabetical index at the front directs us to the page at once. Each month an assistant goes over the list to see if the annuals published that month have been ordered or received. I may say I am acquainted with another system, which enters all the annuals in alphabetical order. The weakness of this alphabetical system was made very plain to me at one library I visited. This library had recently been placed on the list of institutions to receive the Government publications of one of our colonies. Of course, when the "annuals book" had been begun no one thought that there would be such a rush on that special letter under the name of the colony, with the result that it looks quite crowded at that part, while further on the pages have a starved and neglected appearance.—M.



LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS.



SOME remarks in the December No. of the *Library World* on the craft of librarian have excited much interest in various quarters, and for that reason, we print another communication on a different aspect of the same topic.—The "strenuous call of the librarian for more recognition" does not appear to have much effect on those industrious chroniclers who compile biographical directories of living persons, distinguished in some walk of life, or officially connected with positions which are in themselves distinctions. This reflection is forced upon me by an examination of the last editions of "Men of the Time," and "Who's Who," both of which have turned a very deaf ear to the "strenuous" calling of—at any rate—the **public librarian**. Both those books swarm with notices of Indian Civil servants, naval and military personages, legal and clerical gents, minor poets and novelists, and various club frequenters of divers kinds, while municipal officers generally are ignored. The librarians selected for notice are not only comparatively few in number, but are unrepresentative as well. In "Who's Who," only two public librarians are noticed—Mr. Briscoe, of Nottingham, and Mr. F. W. Madden, of Brighton—and in both cases I should think they were included chiefly on account of their literary productions. In "Men of the Time," not a single public municipal librarian is noticed, unless a somewhat tardy notice of Mr. Thomas Greenwood is taken to be representative. Strangely enough, "Who's Who" does not include Mr. Greenwood, which is a somewhat careless oversight. But what mostly interests me is the puzzling question of the

principle on which these books are compiled. Why, for example, should the University Librarians of Oxford, Cambridge, Edinburgh, St. Andrews and Glasgow be selected for notice in "Who's Who," and only those of the first three in "Men of the Time"? And why should Mr. P. J. Anderson, of Aberdeen, be omitted from both books, when his literary and professional records are just as good as any of the others? Then again, if the librarians of the London Library and London Institution are worthy of notice, surely Mr. Charles Welch, of the Guildhall Library, and Mr. E. Gordon Duff, of the Rylands Library, have equal claims. If Public Librarians are only admissible when they have done literary as well as professional work, then why in the name of consistency are the librarians of Aberdeen, Plymouth, Clerkenwell, Manchester, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Camberwell, Aston Manor and Bootle omitted? Whatever may be the claims of those named in these two reference books, to be personages bulking largely in the public eye, it is quite evident that hundreds of the retired generals, civil servants, versifiers, financial magnates, etc., are of much less interest than the chiefs of the great municipal libraries who are omitted. Perhaps Mr. Douglas Sladen will consider this in a future edition of "Who's Who."

PRESSURE upon our space compels us to simply acknowledge a series of interesting **Library Reports** from Belfast, Blackburn, Bristol, Cardiff, Hyde, Longton, Redruth, St. Helens, Whitehaven, and Workington. Most of these record a decrease in the issues of the lending department, attributed, in most cases, to improved trade, fine weather, or outdoor attractions.

THE first number of the new series of **The Library** has now appeared, and we heartily congratulate Mr. MacAlister upon its appearance, size, and contents. Some of the best writers on bibliographical topics have been enlisted, and the names of Messrs. Strange, Redgrave, Macfarlane, Delisle, Weale, Pollard, Spielmann and Boosé are a sufficient guarantee of the quality and variety of the articles. Of articles particularly interesting to librarians, we may mention a very good summary of "Library Progress," by Mr. James Duff Brown (in which somewhat unfamiliar guise we think we recognise the librarian of Clerkenwell); an interesting summary of the "London Government Act and Libraries," by Mr. Thomas Mason; "Notes on Library Legislation," by Mr. Fovargue; and practical articles by Mr. Crunden, of St. Louis, and Mrs. Fairchild (*nee* Cutler), of the Library School, Albany. But, perhaps, the raciest and most interesting article of all is one on "Open Access in Public Lending Libraries," by Mr. H. Keatley Moore, a prominent member of the Froebel Society, and one of the Croydon Public Libraries' Committee. He takes the reader's point of view, and the result is an entertaining, witty, and able article. If Mr. MacAlister can maintain the high level reached in this number of his quarterly, he will have attained a great position in the journalism of bibliography and librarianship.

THE **Whitechapel Library Chronicle** is a neat little monthly containing annotated lists of additions, and various special lists, such as one on South Africa, &c. It has now reached its eleventh number. Mr. Cawthorne, the Librarian, confines the *Chronicle* strictly to official matters.

THE Carlisle Public Library has issued a special "Classified List of Books on Health and Kindred Subjects," compiled by Mr. **Archibald Sparke**, the City Librarian.

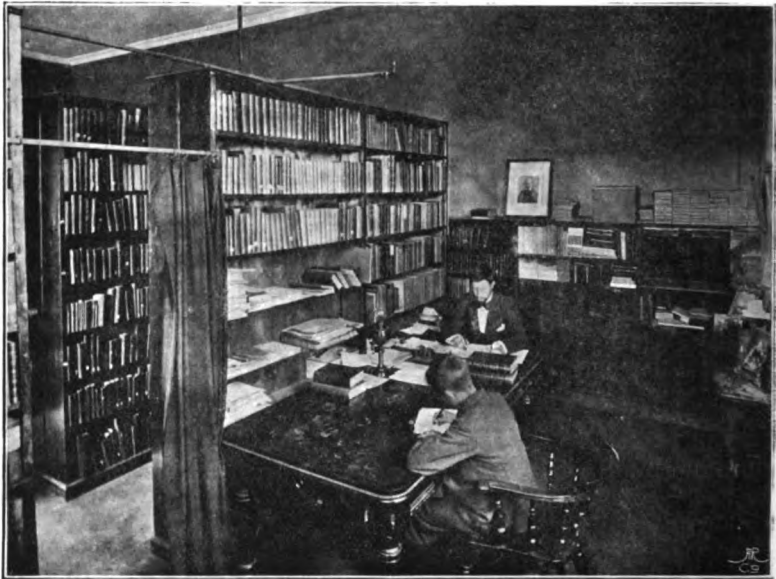
LIBRARIANS are about to be confronted by a new movement, which, however commendable it may be from the professional point of view, is not likely to be generally acceptable to the public, especially in large towns. This we may term the **Early Closing Movement**, and already it has been adopted by the Guildhall Library authorities, and at Clapham, Streatham, and other places. The plea advanced by some, that the early closing of lending departments at 8 p.m. every evening is undertaken solely in the interests of the assistants, does not seem a sufficient justification for a course which in large urban districts is certain to shut out hundreds of workpeople and small shopkeepers from the benefits of the libraries. Different conditions rule in every locality, but we should like to see arguments in support of the cause other than those which are based upon the convenience of three or four assistants, against the convenience of hundreds of the general public. In large towns there is really no connection, or there ought to be no connection between the hours of a staff and the hours during which a library should be opened to the public. We shall welcome contributions on this important question.

"THE **Streatham** Public Libraries Commissioners, ever mindful of the well-being of their employees, have decided to close the Lending Departments of their libraries an hour earlier each evening, in order to give the members of their staff a little relaxation in addition to the usual weekly half-day and evening holidays. We are glad to find that up to the present no reader has complained of any inconvenience caused by the change, which is, it is needless to say, much appreciated by the staff."

A **Bibliographical Society** has been formed at Chicago to encourage and promote bibliographical study and research, to compile and publish special bibliographies, and to arouse interest in the history of books and libraries. Among the members of council we note the names of Mr. Clement W. Andrews, of the John Crerar Library, and Mr. F. H. Hild, the Public Librarian of Chicago.

THE first volume of the *Boote Free Library, Museum, and Technical School Journal* has now been completed, and we congratulate Mr. **Ogle** on the successful accomplishment of this work. Pressure of other work has compelled Mr. Ogle to relinquish his editorial duties in connection with the "Junior Colleagues' Corner" of the *L.A. Record*.

THE *Millom Library Journal*, "a quarterly magazine for readers," has been started at the initiative and, we understand, at the sole risk of Mr. **Alfred J. Hutchinson**, the Librarian. The first number was published in June, 1899, and it contains, in addition to lists of additions, portraits and notices of authors, with remarks on their works. The



view which we give will enable our readers to get a glimpse of the sanctum of this enterprising librarian.

ON the motion of Mr. Jonathan Davies, it was resolved to adopt the Public Libraries Act, 1893, for **Portmadoc**.

THE **Whitstable-on-Sea** District Council has decided to take a poll of the ratepayers before adopting the Public Libraries Acts.

THE Vestry of **Plumstead** have accepted the design of Mr. A. Brumwell Thomas, of Queen Anne's Gate, for the proposed town hall, offices, and Public Library to be erected on the Gossage Road site.

Steeple Claydon, a rural parish of Buckinghamshire, has decided by 52 votes to 48 not to adopt the Public Libraries Act. The polling took place on December 7th.

MR. DAVID H. **Geddie**, Sub-Librarian at Chelsea Public Libraries, has been appointed first librarian of the **Grimsby** Public Library. Mr. Geddie was trained in the Mitchell Library, Glasgow.

THE Public Library movement in **Glasgow** has advanced another stage. On December 11th, Bailie Stevenson moved —“ That the Corporation resolve to exercise the powers conferred by Part III (Libraries) of the Glasgow Corporation (Tramways, Libraries, &c.) Act, 1898, by the establishment of a district library and reading-room or district libraries and reading-rooms, and that it be remitted to the Libraries' Committee to draw up a scheme and report.” To this an amendment was moved by Councillor Gray—“ That the matter be remitted to the Libraries' Committee to report to the Corporation on the expense of a scheme which would be applicable to the different districts of the city.” On a division this amendment was carried by 33 to 32 votes. Although on the first view this may look like a check, it is more than probable that the establishment of Public Libraries throughout the various districts of Glasgow is only a matter of time.

MANY Public Libraries have published special lists of books on **South Africa**, and among them we commend the lists issued by St. Saviour (Southwark), Bootle, Peterborough, and Whitechapel.

MR. ROBERT **Stevenson**, of the Mitchell Library, Glasgow, has been appointed chief assistant at the Croydon Public Library, in place of Mr. H. Sureties, transferred to Hornsey.

A USEFUL return relating to the **London Public Libraries** and Baths and Washhouses has been issued by the London County Council under the direction of Mr. G. L. Gomme. It consists of a series of useful tables and an interesting summary, from which it appears that the libraries already in operation possess 601,526 volumes, of which 471,630 are for lending and 127,272 for reference. The total issues from all departments in one year amounted to 4,514,853 volumes, and of these 3,893,671 were circulated for home reading.

THE **Chelsea** Public Library authorities have altered the arrangement of their rooms in order to provide accommodation for a gallery of local prints, pictures, and other memorials of the parish. The collection was opened to the public on December 4th, and is to be known as the Queen Victoria Gallery.

It may interest librarians to learn that there are **Libraries at Ladysmith**, Greytown, Estcourt, Newcastle, and Dundee, the towns involved in the present war in South Africa. Ladysmith Library, established in 1872, has 1,511 volumes, or perhaps we should say *had* that number early this year. Newcastle (1880) had 1,950, and Dundee (1891) 600 volumes. The librarian at Ladysmith was Mrs. Thompson, and all librarians will join us in hoping she reached a place of safety before the siege commenced.

THE new Public Library at **Chorley** was formerly opened on December 13th, by Herbert Thomas Parke, Esq., J.P., C.C. Mr. Edward McKnight is the first librarian.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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"IGNORANCE OF THE LAW EXCUSETH NO MAN."

SIR,—The writer of the article, "*Statutes affecting Public Libraries*," which appeared in your last number, makes an excellent suggestion in the plea of listing sections of Acts of Parliament affecting librarians and Public Libraries.

Though it is well to cite the *Public Bodies Corrupt Practices Act*, I trust no librarian will ever act so as to give the slightest cause for having the Act quoted against him. Let librarians, individually and collectively, be entirely clear of any just cause for suspicion of not acting honestly in every detail of business and other relations.

Towards the proposed list I beg to contribute, and trust that the information may be a lever by which interested librarians may rouse, to a proper sense of their duties, the few public authorities who do not take official cognisance of the possible spreading of disease by the circulation of books which have been in houses wherein infectious disease at the time existed.

I may add that a barrister who has had very considerable experience in dealing with the Public Health Acts assures me that the words I have italicised embrace *books*, and that, were such case taken into court, the dispenser of the law would inflict a penalty.

The Public Health (London) Act, 1891, says:—

"SECTION 68.—(1) If any person (*a*) while suffering from any dangerous infectious disease wilfully exposes himself without proper precautions against spreading the said disease in any street, public place, shop or inn; or

(*b*) Being in charge of any person so suffering, so exposes such sufferer; or

(*c*) Gives, *lends*, sells, transmits, removes, or exposes, without previous disinfection, any bedding, clothing, or *other articles* which have been exposed to infection from any such disease, he shall be liable to a fine not exceeding five pounds;

(2) Provided that proceedings under this section shall not be taken against persons transmitting with proper precautions any bedding, clothing, or other articles for the purpose of having the same disinfected."

The above section very nearly corresponds with Section 126 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

Public Library, St. George-the-Martyr.

THOMAS ALDRED.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS.

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THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

THE Second Sessional Meeting of this Association was held at 20, Hanover Square, on Monday, December 11th, when Mr. L. Inkster, of Battersea, was voted to the chair. About thirty members attended to hear Mr. B. L. Dyer's paper on

"THE CLAIMS OF THE LIBRARY ASSISTANT UPON THE COUNTY
EDUCATIONAL FUNDS,"

which advocated grants of money from the London County Council's Technical Education Board, to support or aid classes for assistants under the Public Libraries' Acts. The meeting was unanimous as regards the desirability of such grants, and there was a good general discussion. It might be pointed out that if the Technical Education Board should establish such classes in connection with their Municipal Education Scheme, only assistants actually employed in libraries will be allowed to attend. It would be better if the Board could be induced to give a grant in aid of classes directed by the Library Association under its present liberal rules. The proceedings became somewhat lively when Mr. Jast, of Croydon, moved a resolution condemning, as illegal and contrary to the L.A. constitution, the action of the North-Western Branch in excluding persons not engaged in library work from their Summer School Classes or Lectures. Compliments were rife, and an amendment by Mr. Foskett, of Camberwell, to support the North-Western Branch was defeated by sixteen to ten votes. A further amendment by Mr. Jones, of Kensington, postponing any definite action in the matter, was ultimately carried, only three voting for Mr. Jast's resolution.

Our prophecy in regard to stop-gap papers seems likely to be fulfilled. At any rate, it was announced by Mr. Pacy, in reply to a question from Mr. Foskett, that the paper for the January meeting would be an address on London Topography, by Mr. Philip Norman, who is not, we understand, a member of the Society. When an Association like this has to go outside its membership and outside of its objects of association for topics and lecturers, we can only regard it as a confession of inability to induce competent members to contribute. Undiscussible papers, which are not germane to the objects of the Society, have no right to a place in the programme, and those who hunger for lectures on archæology should join an Antiquarian Society, and not seek to impose their private fads upon practical librarians who are chiefly interested in professional questions.

SOCIETY OF PUBLIC LIBRARIANS.

A MEETING of this Society was held at the Bishopsgate Institute, E.C., on Wednesday evening, December 6th, when Mr. F. E. Chennell (Willesden Green), read a paper entitled "A Librarian's Woes." Mr. Z. Moon, of Leyton, was elected chairman; Mr. W. Plant, of Shore-ditch, vice-chairman; and Mr. S. Martin, of Hammersmith, hon. treasurer, at a recent meeting. Mr. Goss, of Bishopsgate Institute, remains hon. secretary as before.

THE PSEUDONYMS.

THE Scallywag commenced the formal proceedings of the last meeting by a vigorous attack upon the general arrangement of books in the majority of Public Libraries, which, he contended, were so loosely or badly classified as to be of little or no use to students. He held that an unclassified library could never be properly used by the student, because its contents were not known or easily available, and that the general practice of non-classification in English Public Libraries tended to rear a race of indifferent, incompetent, and stick-in-the-mud librarians. He next tackled the question of the application of close classification to the catalogue, and sought to show that in manuscript varieties collective entries were best given under subject-words, and single entries at authors' names. From this opinion many of the members dissented, some holding that the reverse plan was preferable. His remarks on the application of close classification to the shelves bore reference chiefly to the problems presented by large and odd-sized books. The reporter is unable to recollect exactly what the Scallywag did recommend (it was late when this point was reached), but whatever it was, dummies, cards, or go-as-you-please, doubtless the very best course was advocated. Many witty and clever things which should have been said at the meeting were recollected by members when half-way home, and are consequently lost in the meantime.



A LIBRARIAN'S DIVERSIONS.

By E. A. BAKER, M.A., *Librarian, Midland Railway Institute, Derby.*

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OF all the delightful recreations classed, for divers professional reasons, under the general designation of work, which cause the librarian's existence to be regarded with envious eyes as one of the most joyous and irresponsible on earth, the most delectable is surely that of cataloguing; and the moments when the cataloguer feels himself fullest of enthusiasm, when he knows it would be impossible to exchange his lot with any human being, are those spent in the absorbing occupation of correcting proofs, for then to the more sensuous delights of the game are added the zest and ardour of combat. Some day I may, with the editor's sanction, make a few observations on the pleasures of cataloguing in general; for the present I am going to consider only this final phase. A curious feature of the pastime or "work," to adopt the conventional phraseology, is that some people are unable to see the fun of it and innocently suppose the term "work" to be meant seriously. Still, when one reflects that every sport is looked upon by outsiders either as a deadly form of depravity, or as idiotically tedious and laborious, it is clear that this feature is neither wonderful nor exceptional. Golf, angling, football, punting, mountaineering, even book-collecting, are each looked upon as "work" by those who love other kinds of recreation, which may yet be in reality not a whit less arduous.

Literature is the most refined of the arts, and cataloguing brings the librarian into touch with its loveliest flower, since, however much pains and genius go to the making of a book's inside, it is plain to a simple mind that far more, to measure word by word and phrase by phrase, go to the composition of titles. Only imagine the importance of the title as an allurement to readers, and its peculiar demands on an author's originality. Without rehearsing the other attractions of cataloguing, I will point out to the connoisseur how in this matter of titles alone the printer furnishes many new kinds of enjoyment and adds a piquancy to the old ones. For example, "Lord Ormont and his Aminta" is a pretty title, but distinctly less interesting than "Lord Ormont and his Annuity." The printer has rationalised it, just as another tried to do with the ridiculous expression "Tilbury Nogo," which appeared in successive proofs as "Tilbury hogs," "Tilbury bogs," and "Tilbury nogs." He was a wicked printer who made Mr. Le Gallienne pose as the "Guest of the Golden Girl," and turned a reference to "old maids" into "old marks." By omitting the inverted commas, the same mischief-maker altered a quotation into the statement that a certain book "could have been improved by the comparative duffer, Mr. Barrie," and by substituting "mirth" for "birth" he caused a novel to be described as "dealing with the struggle against the disadvantages of illegitimate mirth." Had he ever been a choir-boy? But there is no random frolicking in all this, plainly the compositor is ingeniously trying to

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make a point, to brighten the prosaic pages with flashes of genius. "The red badge—of courage," is not without effectiveness; "The red cabbage" shows wit. Again, "Phases of an inferior talent" is an improvement on "Phases of an inferior planet; while who will dispute the advantages of being up-to-date after "The autocar on the breakfast-table," attributed to "Sherlock Holmes"? Hackneyed expressions are abhorred by the right-thinking compositor; and who shall blame him when he gives us such admirable titles as "A harvest of wild cats,¹ by Florence Marryat"; "The tenth nurse,² by Henry James"; and "My rum³ home, by Rolf Boldrewood"? Already the dearth of proper names is checking the exuberance of minor novelists. Why not go to an able printer for a suggestion? Look at these: "Charlie-mange," "The Princess Alive,"⁴ "Paul of Virginia," "The New Antigore," "Augutsus," "Pebbleshire."⁵ Simple variations, yet how striking and fresh!

Looking over a long galley proof which I have before me, I marvel how any sane person could assent for a moment to the vulgar notion that all these splotches and dashes of red ink represent printers' errors. There are too many of them; and, above all, the majority are too transparent and ridiculous for a man of even less than average intelligence to fall into, and a printer, as I have tried to show, is a person of much more than ordinary understanding and acuteness. This proof strikingly resembles an old-fashioned print of a battle-field. Here decapitated figures, limbs shorn away, bodies transfixed, appear to be the result of a cavalry charge; here the bayonet might have been at work laying low individuals; there whole squadrons have been mowed down, as if by machine guns. In one place a complete battalion has been overthrown, and turned literally upside down, as though a mine had exploded with murderous effect. With deep feelings of satisfaction I survey the sanguinary scene, triumphing not so much in the slaughter as in the consciousness of attacks foiled and strategy unmasked. This is a simile, but there is a good deal of truth in it. You pit yourself against the printer in a kind of duel. If he be a man of good sporting instincts, he will, of course, show you plenty of these flourishes, but his serious attention will be concentrated on the problem of getting in a thrust under their cover. You must learn to recognise the feints and parry the thrusts. He will be content if he can fix two or three of his *bons-mots* upon you, and you may assume he takes little interest in the "printers' errors" which you detect so quickly.

Here a few more of his *jeux d'esprit*:—"Where three enquiries⁶ meet"; "Pure immorality⁷"; "Golden fare⁸, by Bertram Mitford"; "The Manchester wars⁹"; "Kaily orders," an acute suggestion for "Kailyarders"; "Dette de Laine," for "Dette de haine"; "Brigadier-General," for "Brigadier Gerard"; "Lytton, E. Bulwer, Ltd.," "The Pattern Experiment," "Mrs. Candle's Curtain Lectures;" "rinsed" for "revised," "picturespue," "The 'Cello," a sly substitution for "The

Oats.	¹ Muse.	² Run.	³ Aline.	Pebbleshire.
Empires.	Immortality.	⁴ Face.	Man.	

bells." "Argyll, Duke of Darwinism," is a smart commentary on Conservatism straying from politics into science. "Soldering and lovmaking" is not pointless; nor in the statement about "Tristram Shandy" that it was "a work of such elusive and complex qualities as to defy description," was it an unhappy idea to make it "defy competition." O shade of Sterne!

Unless, however, the editor is willing to give me a special Christmas number, I had better pause here. Is there any exercise, let me ask in conclusion, at once so intellectual, so humorous, and so exhilarating as this? And why should the librarian complain, though his days be long and his emoluments small, when his life is full of such amenities? Depend upon it, councils and committees, and the public too, have a shrewd suspicion that his work is play and his energetic bustle a sham.



READING FOR THE BLIND; A NOTE AND A SUGGESTION.

By M. E. HARTLEY, *Sub-Librarian, Bradford Free Libraries.*

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NOT the least useful feature of the work of the Bradford Free Libraries' Committee is that of the supply of books for the blind.

The permanent collection of books in the Braille type, at the Central Library, numbers about seventy volumes, and to these may be added a further thirty volumes of sound literature, always accessible to those who use the library. The latter collection is, by arrangement with the National Lending Library for the Blind, changed every two months, and thus the blind reader has always a stock of about 100 volumes to select from. Many famous writers are represented, and in no sense is the selection narrow in view, or weak in tone. Ruskin, Kingsley, Shakespeare, Bunyan, Scott, Whittier, Prescott, Carlyle, and lighter works of a fictional character all find a place, whilst books of an educational nature (Music, Lessons in French, Science Primers, &c.), meet with full appreciation.

All the above-mentioned books are printed in the Braille type, the more general application of which has almost superseded the old-fashioned Moon type. A few adult readers of the latter type may still be met with, but the use of the Braille system in schools for the blind, and its adaptability to other purposes (music, the numerals, &c.) is sure to make it the universal type for the sightless reader. Apart from this, the ease with which it can be written gives it an immense advantage over other systems.

The blind population of Bradford is about 250, so that, comparatively, they are supplied with as fitting proportion of reading matter as the sighted members of the community.

To the librarian who has not yet considered the question of catering for the blind members of his locality, and who may, furthermore,

be deterred from so doing by that great bogey "additional expenditure," I may say that the cheapness of books printed in the Braille type is a fact perhaps not sufficiently and widely known. To this point I will refer later.

The average proportion of blind, according to Mulhall, is about one per thousand, so that a town of 50,000 to 100,000 inhabitants must number amongst its people a considerable blind population, to whom the free supply of reading matter would be a boon.

In many of our larger towns there exist institutions for the blind, the managers of which, it may be assumed, do cater, as their means allow, to the needs of those associated with such places. But even in these instances the public library, by the purchase or hire of the best and latest published works in the Braille type, may greatly aid and supplement the good work done by those institutions. The city of Manchester possesses one of the finest of institutions for the blind (Henshaw's Blind Asylum), yet the Free Library Committee finds the highest appreciation of their collection of Braille and Moon books in the Deansgate Branch Library. Many of the readers who use the books thus loaned have ceased to be connected with the institution above named, and have no further claim on the advantages offered by its managers.

Here it is that the library must step in and play its part in the amelioration of a section of the community to whom the loan of recreative and instructive literature is a matter of the highest human interest and civic duty.

Beginning with the question of expense in this feature of the duty of the Free Library, two methods of procedure are open to the authorities who recognise the needs of their sightless fellows. The first plan is that of permanent stock; but with such a limited and slowly-growing class of readers for consideration our experience at Bradford has proved that the fixed stocking of books is not advisable, although the permanent retention of works of music and books of an educational character may be worth consideration—these questions being, of course, greatly dependant on the advantages the town may otherwise possess; *e.g.* an institution, or a school for the blind.

The second course open, is that of obtaining books on loan for a period to be agreed upon, between the library authority and the lenders; a working system far more satisfactory than the former mentioned.

As I have stated at the beginning of this note, our method at Bradford is worked on a change of books every two months, a system which gives every satisfaction to the borrowers, and we have not yet experienced any complaint regarding the tone of books sent down to us from the Incorporated National Lending Library for the Blind.

The managers of that institution will supply to the applicant a full catalogue of the 4,000 volumes in their possession; this stock covering all classes of literature.

As an instance of the cost of books of a useful character, and worthy of permanent stocking, I may say that our Committee recently spent the sum of five pounds, (the value of a score of the most

ephemeral novels) the result being the enrichment of our stock, as shown in the following :—

Songs for Soprano, Contralto, Soprano and Tenor, and Contralto and Bass (4 vols.); Child Pianist, 1st grade, 4 vols.; ditto, 2nd grade, 4 vols.; Teacher's Guide, 2 vols.; Musical Notation; Cassell's French Exercises, 3 vols.; Bue's French Grammar, 3 vols.; Introductory Science Primer; Physical Geography, 2 vols.; Geology, 2 vols.; Sixty years a Queen, 4 vols.; The Reformation; Queen Elizabeth, 2 vols.; Tennyson's Poems, 2 vols.; Poems of Wordsworth, 4 vols.; and Shakespeare's *King Lear*, 2 vols. It is scarcely necessary to add that the above works, like all books prepared for the blind, are very much abridged.

The books are neatly and strongly bound in buckram, with marbled sides, and with a Braille-type title label affixed to the front board for ready reference by the blind reader.

Another feature of the supply of books for the blind, but one scarcely coming within the actual duty of the Free Library authorities, is that of the preparation of Braille type books. The "printing" of books in the Braille type is an occupation easily learned, and a movement is at present on foot for the establishment of a scheme of social work in aid of the blind, one feature of which is the preparation of books for the use of the blind reader.

To those librarians who have already a stock of books for the blind (and especially to the librarian who "runs" a Bulletin, Record, or Journal) I might suggest that greater publicity be given to this noble effort in aid of the blind. Having its origin in London, the movement may be known to the Metropolitan librarian, but as a generally accepted fact I do not think that the object has met due recognition in the world of library work. In all towns and neighbourhoods there could easily be organised bands of willing workers, to whom the preparation of books in the Braille type would be a labour of love, and an especially interesting occupation to the individual of literary inclinations. A gentleman actively interested in our local Institution for the Blind writes :—

"In London a large number of ladies have taken this work in hand with most gratifying results, and one important society is thereby enabled to employ upwards of eighty blind copyists in writing additional copies of the works thus prepared. The system is not difficult to learn, and there are possibly many ladies in Bradford who might find it an agreeable variation from their other occupations. Those whose tastes are of a literary turn would find the subject decidedly congenial, whilst the transcription into Braille of passages from the works of a favourite author would be found to present elements of entertaining and delightful study."

Gratuitous lessons in the Braille type printing are offered by the head-mistress of the Bradford School for the Blind, and it is heartily anticipated that the blind members of our city will benefit greatly by this further effort in aid of an Institution already widely known for its progressive methods and sterling results.

FICTION ANNOTATION.

By L. STANLEY JAST, *Chief Librarian*, Croydon Public Libraries.

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HAVING (let me say it with becoming modesty) borne a humble share in the advocacy of annotated cataloguing, and having, further, perpetrated some annotations to fiction myself, and being, therefore, in a kind of way a sort of father (sharing the paternity with Mr. Brown and others) to Mr. Baker's "Descriptive Handbook to Prose Fiction," I feel justified in saying something on the controversy which has arisen between Mr. Baker and one of his critics in this journal, anent the principles which should guide the making of these annotations. But let me first of all add my tribute to the labour, the ability, and the knowledge with which the "Handbook" has been compiled. Though I am compelled to agree largely with Mr. Brown that the plan of the work and the principles upon which it has been written are wrong, there can be no question that, even if an ill thing, it has been surprisingly well done, and, though the experiment be never repeated, it is well it should have been made, if only on the "awful example" ground. Where Mr. Baker has come a cropper let other librarians beware.

The objection brought by Mr. Brown against the classification of fiction I emphatically endorse. It is surprising that Mr. Baker should so mistake the nature of the interest in the personality of the novelist as to confuse it with the "popular curiosity about personalities" which is responsible for that nineteenth century vulgarism, the illustrated interview. It is no such thing, but simply the legitimate recognition of the fact that the author *is* the novel, and that the book derives its main value and interest for the reader as an expression of him or her; plot, period, place, being altogether subordinate to the purely personal element, which dominates all this "literature of power" as distinguished from the "literature of knowledge," to quote De Quincey's brilliant nomenclature. This applies absolutely to the masterpieces of literature, and though "Three Men in a Boat" may have little value as an expression of Jerome, still it (no doubt) does express some of him, and anyhow, people read it because they "like Jerome." This being so, why obscure the personal element by classifying? Moreover, it is difficult to reconcile Mr. Baker's practice with his theory. He tells us that "novels are chiefly of importance as literature," and then he goes and arranges his catalogue on a classification in no sense literary, but purely topical, while holding that "a handbook to fiction must be primarily a critical guide." Then why in the name of consistency does not Mr. Baker classify along these lines? Why does he link authors together who "happen" to write about the same period and place instead of by the periods or "schools" to which the authors themselves belong? It is confusing to have Mr. Baker crying criticism first, anything else afterwards, on one page, and on another talking about the

'immense advantage' of having, *e.g.*, "Fielding offered as a commentary on Besant and Reade." What then, let me ask, are the critical links uniting Fielding with Sir Walter Besant? That which strikes me, is the immense *disadvantage* of having Besant in twelve different parts of the catalogue.

Coming to the more important question of criticism or no criticism, I by no means object to criticism *in toto*—nor do I take Mr. Brown's remarks to imply that he does—but I object, with him, to criticism as introduced "in the manner of this handbook." Mr. Baker apparently believes that if you take a number of criticisms, "melt 'em all down in a pipkin or crucible, set 'em to simmer and take off the scum" that the residuum is a statement "not to be lightly disputed, agreeing with the voice of authoritative criticism." It is of course a complete delusion, but this is what Mr. Baker can't see. What he has really done is to produce a handbook of personal criticism which stands or falls upon his—Mr. Baker's—*ipse dixit*. That he would be the last man in the world to consciously take up the position of librarian and critic to the institution he has in charge I am well aware, but that is his attitude as it seems to some of us. It is true that Lord Rosebery has said that "every free public library requires a taster in the shape of a librarian,"* but it is questionable if his lordship was meaning exactly that he should play this public kind of role, a sort of literary meat-inspector, or whether he did not mean that his "tasting" should be shown in the selection of his books and in the private guidance of the student. Be that as it may, the immediate and interesting point is that Mr. Baker is laying the flattering unction to his soul that he has succeeded, by the aforementioned process of "boiling down," in distilling a species of concentrated essence of criticism—critical Bovril in fact—wherein all that is adventitious and unsound has been vaporised, leaving whatsoever is good and nourishing behind.

But is there a "voice of authoritative criticism"? Most undoubtedly; it is the criticism with which *I* agree, just as to Mr. Baker *that* is "authoritative" which satisfies him. Granted that "there are standards of taste in all branches of literature"—that is, there are many standards, and these vary from age to age. And if there is a general agreement as to the "acknowledged masterpieces"—how many of these does any literature contain, let alone Mr. Baker's handbook? But Matthew Arnold or Professor Nichol on Byron as compared with Mr. Swinburne, let us say, is an object lesson in that "voice of authoritative criticism" which rings as one in Mr. Baker's synthesising ear. Or to take an example from the handbook. To my mind nothing could be more appallingly inapplicable to Rudyard Kipling than this: "At heart a Methodist, he never lets go, even in handling the shadiest of subjects, of the *eternal aspect of things*."‡ Anent which apostle of the God of Things as They Are, reference may be made to Mr. Robert Buchanan's article "The Voice of the Hooligan," in the December "Contemporary Review," as an instance of the application of a very

*In his "Appreciations and Addresses."

‡My italics.

different standard. Mr. Baker's notes to Charlotte Brontë will hardly commend themselves to a Brontëite. All he has to say about "Villette" which is not even starred as a "recognised masterpiece") is

Also semi-biog., scene a school in Brussels; Paul Emmanuel [*sic*] is her best char.

I suspect Mr. Baker, with all his catholicity, of an inability to appreciate Charlotte Brontë, or he could not be so cold about this great novel, or "Paul Emanuel," who is declared by Mr. Swinburne to be a characterisation ranking in power with the immortal trio, Don Quixote, Uncle Toby, and Colonel Newcombe, and, by no less an authority than Mr. Leslie Stephen, to be "in one sense superior even to such characters as these."* I give these examples not with a view of picking holes in Mr. Baker's work, but to illustrate my thesis that what Mr. Baker has tried to do—to compile criticisms "not to be lightly disputed"—he has not done, and that for the simple and convincing reason that it is impossible.

Mr. Baker's reply to Mr. Brown's objection to what may be termed the "sexual" annotations reminds me of that incident in a novel of Captain Marryat's,† where a young unmarried wet-nurse, being accused of having had a child, pleads in extenuation: "If you please, ma'am, it was *such a little one*." Mr. Baker replies that these notes are by no means so numerous as Mr. Brown makes out. But I take it that what Mr. Brown objects to is this kind of annotation appearing in a library catalogue at all. It is difficult to believe that Mr. Baker is serious in stating that "to let them"—*i.e.* books of this class—"pass without note would be mischievous." In other words, to call attention by *not* calling attention is, in Mr. Baker's opinion, a dangerous proceeding. This is more subtle than convincing. Most librarians will prefer to follow that wise principle of annotation enunciated in Cutter, leave bad and "questionable" books in the obscurity of silence. To say that a book is "not written for girls' schools" (by-the-by, why limit to *girls'* schools?) must really be frightfully tantalising to any normally built school-girl. One would think a little knowledge of human nature—especially of female human nature—would show the utter unwisdom, to say nothing of the rather comic effect, of such warnings.

I have said that I do not object to criticism *in toto*. I have used and use critical annotations largely, in fact, in "The Reader's Index," the magazine of the Croydon libraries. But these are quoted criticisms, with the source indicated—generally a journal like "Literature," or "The Literary World." These criticisms, whether right or wrong—and my opinion of the value of contemporary criticism as a guide to the buyer is not high—in no way involve the cataloguer, and go forth with just the "authority" with which the reader is pleased to invest the source. Moreover, they have a definite value apart from the intrinsic one as giving the reader an idea of "what the papers are saying" about such and such a work. With this motive two contradictory reviews are sometimes quoted, one praising, the other damning.

* "Hours in a Library," Third series, essay on Charlotte Brontë.

† "Mr Midshipman Easy."

I should also not object to, *e.g.*, a "best book" note to a text-book of some science or art, or a history or travel. There is such a thing as a "voice of authoritative criticism" after all, but only in the "literature of knowledge" not "of power." "Alwyn" may or may not be the masterpiece which the reviewers one and all declared it was, Mr. Stephen Phillips may or may not be the burning and the shining light of poesy which *The Daily Chronicle* asserts he is—one is permitted to doubt—but that "The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire" is the greatest history in the language, that "The Origin of Species," is an epoch-making book, and that Foster's "Text-Book of Physiology" is the best book on the subject, permit of no doubt. These are facts, demonstrable as such. Outside of books like this, and of the Shakespeares, Dantes, and Goethes, the great peaks of literature, about the commanding grandeur of whose lonely summits there can be no question, one might as well expect a general canon of biblical interpretation as of literary criticism.



SOME OBJECTIONS TO THE CARD CATALOGUE ANSWERED.

By THOS. E. MAW, *Librarian, Stanley Public Library, King's Lynn.*

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IN the September issue of the *Library World* I endeavoured to show what I considered to be advantages derived from the adoption of the Card Catalogue. Since then I have had numerous objections raised, the substance of these being contained in the letters of "Chief Librarian" and Mr. Wroe. In order to understand clearly what follows I will briefly recapitulate:—

- (1) The pressure brought to bear upon the librarian to have the library open at an early date does not allow him to give the necessary time and thought to the compilation of the catalogue; and the too common practice of having a showy printed catalogue entails an expenditure which is afterwards felt to have been a waste of money. With the Card Catalogue as the basis for present and future indexing, the library is ready for opening at any time, as it is not necessary to keep the public waiting for the whole of the books to be catalogued, and the initial expense is trifling compared with the printed form.
- (2) Large additions being made to the stock of books immediately after the publication of the catalogue, a succession of supplements must be issued. This is very unsatisfactory to the borrower, who must go through many lists before finding

whether a particular work is in the library, and is never quite certain that he has an index to the whole of the books. The Card Catalogue is always complete to date, and, whatever method of cataloguing be adopted, it is always fuller and more satisfactory than is possible with the printed form. The mobility of the Card Catalogue enhances its value, for changes in the stock can be made without the slightest inconvenience; and, should fuller entries be desirable, or corrections of error, there is not the slightest difficulty in doing this.

- (3) Having the Card Catalogue as the principal catalogue, the "copy" is always ready when it is deemed advisable to print. The printing can be carried on with little trouble, either complete or in sections.

It was never thought that this system was the acme of perfection. The borrower who cannot come to the library is to be considered.

He (or more often she) is generally a novel reader, and in nine cases out of ten sends a messenger, who asks for a book by some well-known writer. Experience proves that the borrower who makes a careful selection from his catalogues at home is not often met with. The student nearly always comes to the library and makes use of the desk catalogues. Instead of its being an objection to the Card Catalogue that a few must come to the library who would otherwise stay away, it is rather an advantage, for they would doubtless be induced to take books other than fiction, and the library would become to them something other than a collection of novels. They also visit the reading-rooms, and take a deeper interest in the institution. Should it be impossible for a borrower to come to the library, it is *not* impossible to send a list of books wanted, and it would be an exceptional library if one on the list could not be supplied; but when such a thing occurred the librarian or assistant could surely judge the borrower's taste from the list, and send another book to suit.

The fear has been expressed that the library would suffer if it were not advertised "by the general circulation of a printed catalogue."

Could a more costly or useless form of advertising be conceived? The catalogue would find its way into the homes of a few, leaving those who really stand in most need of books unaware of the library's existence. Such would be the result if the catalogue were the advertisement depended upon to make the privileges of the library known. Supposing it were proposed never to print a catalogue (*which I have not even suggested*), the library need not suffer for want of advertisement. For a very trifling sum (a small fraction of the money saved on printing) a circular setting forth the uses, privileges, and rules of the library, and with an application form included, could be printed and sent to every household in the borough. At Newcastle the system of publishing each year an excellent classified list of additions at a small cost to the buyer must have done more to extend the work of the library during the past three years than the well-known general cata-

logue did during its twelve years' reign. The borrowers who procure a copy of a first catalogue generally discard it in a very few years, so that the advertising value of a large catalogue is almost *nil*, but the issue of sections and lists of additions, with a complete Card Catalogue, are sure to keep the increase in the collection of books before the public, besides being of much greater usefulness.

"How, save perhaps in 'open-access' libraries, are the wants of large numbers of borrowers to be met?"

The Card Catalogue I recommended is neither a book nor a nest of drawers fixed so that only a few are able to get near them at a time. Each drawer or tray is removable, and as it is made to hold a single row of about 1,000 cards it is easily handled. With a printed list or catalogue of fiction it would be found that the number of drawers required (according to the size of the library) would be sufficient to allow non-fiction readers to consult the catalogue without inconvenience. A very simple calculation made on the issues of works other than fiction in any library will prove this to be correct. An author-catalogue on cards would be of especial value in open access libraries, as the books themselves are an index of subjects; but, even with the most careful classification, a subject-catalogue would be required to index the multitude of subjects contained in single works, which would otherwise be lost to the student.

"A printed catalogue is a permanent inventory of stock, but a MS. one is liable to accidental or deliberate mutilation. How could this be avoided?"

Is it meant that stock and shelf registers can be dispensed with when there is a printed catalogue? I have known only of one library where the catalogue was the record of books in stock, and in that case an examination of the stock showed many books missing. These books were not accounted for in any way, and had probably been lost, stolen, or withdrawn. No librarian who knows his business would ever think of making the catalogue serve as a record of stock. The Card Catalogue is in general use in reference libraries, and it has not been considered an objection worthy of notice that it might be accidentally or deliberately mutilated, for such an occurrence must be rare indeed.

Good cards will stand constant handling for a very long time without showing signs of wear (the edges in the mass look dirty), and of course the publication of the catalogue greatly lessens the use made of the MS.; so that, once made, the fear that it would be thumbed out of existence like a shoddy paper novel is quite groundless.

"Only one entry can be seen at a time." Quite so, but what loss is that, when, with the printed catalogue, only one entry can be *read* at a time?



A SIMPLE CARD-CHARGING SYSTEM FOR MEDIUM AND SMALL LIBRARIES.

By W. B. THORNE, *St. Bride's Institute, London.*

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FOR medium and small libraries a Card-Charging System seems much more reasonable and appropriate than an indicator. In fact, in small libraries issuing 100 books daily from a stock of 6,000 or 8,000 volumes, it is ludicrous to erect an indicator when a much less pretentious method might be adopted at less expense and with more comfort to the borrowers. Of course circumstances alter cases, and in places with a big issue the Card-Charging plan is, perhaps, the less practicable.

In all systems for recording the issuing of books, the simpler they are in working the better for all concerned, and I venture to offer the following method as being extremely simple, and safe in practice.

It must be explained first that a close classification is much more conducive to a prompt and speedy issue of books in connection with this system, than the classification on merely broad lines, authors and titles only being dealt with—numbers, as far as borrowers are concerned, being ignored. The old book-card with a pocket on the back for the reception of borrower's ticket, has been replaced by a much more serviceable article in the shape of a linen pocket or, it might almost be termed an envelope. This is quite plain except for the ruling which is on *both* sides, therefore lasting double the time of the old-fashioned card. The title and number are written on, and when one side is filled the card can be turned and the reverse side used. Every book has one of these cards, classes being distinguished by the class letter written in front of the number, as shown in the diagram:—

DARWIN. Descent of Man.						G 2052.	

Exact Size.)

Pockets or linen corners in the books for reception of the cards are not used. They have no advantages, and are the cause of much trouble and loss of time. The card is simply placed in or about the middle of the book, where it is quite safe, and seldom, if ever, falls out.

At the moment of issue all that has to be done is to stamp the date in first open space on the card and also on the dating label in the book, place the borrower's ticket in the card, and, for the time being, the issue is complete. At leisure the ticket number is written in the space with the date, and the card arranged in its numerical order with the others of that day's issue. At the end of the day, after note has been made of the number of books issued, the whole of the cards are blended with those of previous day's issues, thus forming a numerical indicator of the books out.

The best plan of arrangement for the cards is to keep the classes divided, and the cards in their numerical sequence in each class. With this method a book can be accounted for at any time. If it is not in the library then its card, which will be in the tray, shows who has it out, whether it has been lost, or is in the binder's hands. This is an undeniable advantage. Often and often a difficulty or query arises, an important one being the loss of a volume by a borrower, who enquires whether it has been returned. This can be ascertained immediately—if the card is in the tray the book is still out, if not, it has been returned. Overdues are shown by the aid of a coloured slip. The first week nothing is used, and for the four ensuing weeks a different coloured slip is employed, so that, at the end of the week when the fourth colour has been used, those cards which have no slip are due back and must be written for. The overdues contained in a tray of from 2,500-3,000 cards can be picked out, every care being exercised, in less than twenty minutes.

Arranging the cards according to date—each day separate—is not recommended, its only advantage being an automatic disclosure of books overdue, which is not sufficient compensation for the trouble.

Occasionally it happens that a book-card is misplaced, but as it is always in its own division, and the issues in the non-fictional classes rarely represent half the total number of books out, it is only when the card of a novel is lost that any real difficulty is presented. A mistake of a more serious character which, as with the indicator, sometimes occurs is the misplacement of the borrower's ticket, *i.e.*, the placing of the borrower's ticket in the card belonging to a book which has been issued to another person. The Card-Charging System, as described here, particularly lends itself to speedy and easy rectification of such errors. All the borrower's tickets in the book-cards can be examined without moving the cards from the tray, and the most complicated blunder can be cleared up in a very little time.

Finally, it may be said, the system is pleasant to work with, the cards not being small and fiddling, allow the borrower's ticket to be correspondingly large. The issues are easily totalled up, and borrowers do not have as much trouble in obtaining a book. Service is quick, and the system is quite inexpensive.

HOW TO ACCOUNT FOR DECREASED ISSUES.

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IT frequently happens that when librarians present statistical returns of books issued during certain periods, to their Committees, some inquisitive member wants to know the reason for the decrease, if there is one, or why fewer books have been circulated than at the corresponding date last year. These questions are usually sprung without preface or warning, and are consequently rather awkward to answer, especially if, as is always the case, the librarian's mind is a perfect blank as regards this particular matter. It has occurred to me that it would be a useful thing to collect a few stereotyped, but effective replies, selected from annual reports and the utterances of librarians, which could be arranged in a series, and fired off in rotation whenever this question of decrease was raised. No librarian is prepared at a moment's notice to give reasons for decreases of book issues, and when compiling his annual report he wants all his imagination for his figures, consequently, the series of answers I have gathered should be of immense service to the profession at large. Indeed, I am not sure if such practical aids to the successful administration of a public library are not worth twenty profitless discussions on Annotation or Classification of Fiction, Early Closing, the Pampering of Assistants, Open Doors, and Shut Libraries, and other vain and delusive topics. The following are a few selected Reasons for Decreased Issues :—

- 1.—The recent decrease in our lending library issues is undoubtedly due to the fine weather which has prevailed all through the season, tempting people, and particularly young people, to spend most of their spare time in the open-air.
- 2.—It is with regret that I have to announce an unfortunate decline in the issues from the lending department, caused by the dull and broken weather which marked most of last year [month, week, or quarter, as the case may be], and compelled many of our readers to seek refuge at home, where they no doubt found sufficient literary pabulum in the evening newspapers.
- 3.—No doubt the universal cult of the cycle is accountable for the slight [or large] decrease in our circulation. In some respects it is perhaps as well for the public health, that stimulating outdoor exercise should be preferred to the comparatively depressing atmosphere of home—even with a good, solid book from the library.
- 4.—Great activity in all local trades has contributed not a little to lower the usually satisfactory total of our lending library issues. There is always less time and inclination to read when business is good all over the country.
- 5.—Owing to the lamented death of our worthy chairman [insert name and titles] and the consequent closing of the lending

department for two hours during the funeral ceremony, the issues from the lending library show a slight falling off as compared with last year.

- 6.—The large falling off in the circulation of novels which has greatly reduced the total issues for the year is a phenomenon common to most active libraries like our own, and is occasioned by the time expended on reading more wholesome and substantial literature by our borrowers.
- 7.—The ravages of the influenza epidemic among members of the staff in the early spring led to the closing of the library for several weeks, with the result that we have to record an appreciable decrease in the issues of books from the lending department.
- 8.—The epidemic of [measles, whooping cough, scarlatina, foot and mouth disease, anything] which visited our town this autumn is the cause of the decrease in this year's issue.
- 9.—It will be noticed that our total issues continue to show a decrease, but this only as compared with the last three or four years when our issues were quite abnormally high. But as compared with, say 1881, a most satisfactory *increase* is observable, proving that the popularity of the library grows year by year.
- 10.—We have to draw attention for the first time since the opening of the library to a decrease in the total number of books circulated during the past year. This decrease, however, is entirely due to the fact that the demand has so far exceeded the supply that hardly any of the more popular books were to be found on the shelves so that it has been a customary thing for borrowers to go empty-handed away. This, though pulling down the issues, is an eloquent testimony alike to the zeal of our readers, and the urgent need for more books.

Note.—The careful reader may be of opinion that the reasoning of the two preceding paragraphs is a trifle mixed. They are submitted as good examples of those explanations which need explaining, at which all public officials should be experts. So long as they *sound* well nobody is likely to trouble about the meaning.

- 11.—The disturbed state of the public mind this winter, owing to the [war in South Africa, crisis in the boot trade, famine in India, trouble with Russia, anything] is largely responsible for the unfortunate drop in the issues of all departments which the figures of the present report show. A public library is as sensitive as a barometer to the changes in the popular mood, and when this is unusually depressed or excited, reading invariably suffers.

Note.—The foregoing is highly recommended. The barometer simile alone may build up the librarian a reputation for deep wisdom. Of course few will read it in a report, but the local paper will be bound to quote it.

12.—After several years of increasing issues I have this year to lament a decrease, due, there is no doubt, to the very fully annotated catalogues published during the librarianship of my able predecessor. The public read the annotations, which are lengthy, instead of the books. This experience has demonstrated the bad effect of annotated catalogues. I propose to compile all future catalogues on the old lines, and give as little information as I conveniently can.



THE LIBRARY STAFF.

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Library BOOK SELECTION AND ACCESSION.

Methodology	E	
2 Donations	10	Annuals and Directories
1 Registers	1	1 Lists
3 Acknowledgments	3	3 Registers
5 Duplicate Register	12	Ordering Books
4 Propositions	1	1 Order Books or Sheets
1 Librarians	3	3 Books on Approval
3 Committees	5	5 .. bought from Petty Cash
5 Readers'	7	7 .. ordered without previous approval of Committee
7 Books	9	9 Book Auctions
9 Cards	14	Duplicates
11 Booksellers' Catalogues	1	1 Branch Library
13 Publishers' Catalogues	3	3 Delivery Station
15 Book Prospectuses	5	5 Popular Books
17 Journals examined	7	7 Subscription Departments
6 Society Publications	16	Proportion of Fiction
1 Subscriptions	18	Reference <i>versus</i> Lending Depts.
3 Registers	20	Weeding out obsolete books
8 Periodicals	22	Replacements
1 Lists, Placard	24	Overdue Books
3 Table Lists	26	Government and Official Publications
5 Registers	28	Local Official Publications.

More Pseudonyms, "ALIEN" is the pseudonym of Mrs. L. A. Baker; Bickerdyke (John) is Charles H. Cook; Bird (Isabella) is Mrs. I. L. Bishop; Cambridge (Ada) is Mrs. George F. Cross; Caskoden (Edwin) is Charles Major; Cobbleigh (Tom) is Walter Raymond; Dale (Alan) is Alfred J. Cohen; Dale (Darley) is Miss F. M. Steele; Donovan (Dick) is J. E. Muddock; Fane (Violet) is Lady Currie; Francis (M. E.) is Mrs. F. Blundell (*née* M. E. Sweetmann); Garrett (Edward) is Mrs. John R. Mayo; Gerard (Dorothea) is Mme. Longard de Longarde; Grand (Sarah) is Mrs. M'Fall; Greenwood (Grace) is Mrs. Sarah J. Lippincott; Harland (Marion) is Mrs. M. V. H. Terhune; Hayes (Henry) is Mrs. E. O. Kirk; Hickson (Mrs. Murray) is Mrs. Sidney Kitcat; Heimburg (W.) is Bertha Behrens; Jordan (Kate) is Mrs. F. M. Vermilye; Kipling (Alice M.) is Mrs. J. M. Fleming; "Mac" is the pseudonym

of Seamus Mac Manus: Mansergh (Jessie) is Mrs. George de Horne Vaisey; Mullholland (Rosa) is Lady Gilbert; Nesbit (E.) is Mrs. Hubert Bland; Otis (James) is J. O. Kaler; "Pansy" is the pseudonym of Mrs. Isabella M. Alden; Paston (George) is Miss E. M. Symonds; Prevost (Francis) is Harry F. P. Battersby; Raine (Allan) is Mrs. A. Raine; Reid (Christian) is Mrs. Francis Tierman; Sigerson (Dora) is Mrs. Clement Shorter; "Tasma" is the pseudonym of the late Mme. Jessie Couvreur; Turner (Ethel) is Mrs. H. R. Curlewis; "Vedette" is the *nom de guerre* of the Rev. William H. Fitchett; Vivaria (Kassandra) is Mrs. Heinemann; Wheelton (Brook) is Douglas Sladen; "Zack" is the *nom de guerre* of Miss Gwendoline Keats.

The Librarian's Manners. SOME time ago we addressed an "ethical disquisition on department" to Library Assistants, which had, we hope, the immediate effect of producing a complete transformation in the manners of "thim young divils fornenst the counter," as they were once called by an irate old Irishwoman. We now address a similar admonition to the mighty personage who adorns with his presence the "office" at the Public Library, and in a dignified manner accepts from 10 to 50 per cent. of the library rate. There are three varieties of this functionary—1st, The Toff; 2nd, The Tomboy; and 3rd, The Ordinary—but we shall only deal with the first and second, there being no features of interest about the third. Of course, every librarian who reads this will quite understand that there is no reflection upon *him* intended. The anatomy of The Toff presents an extraordinary initial phenomenon—*his feet are too large*. This results from swelled-head (*Hyper-hydrocephalus*), and is a remarkable instance of a reflected disease producing the condition vulgarly known as Too-big-for-his-boots. The victim of this fell disease is easily identified by the strange hallucination he cherishes that he is owner of full baronial rights, with powers of pit and gallows over assistants, tradesmen, and the general public. His manner to subordinates is short, overbearing, and very superior; to equals he is dogmatic, contradictory, and condescending; while to his social superiors he is docile and milk-and-water, with a dash of meekness induced by the reflex action of his feet upon his head. No type of "chief" is more universally disliked, and, generally speaking, the abilities of such heads are unequal to their pretensions. The Tomboy is quite the reverse of this. He cheapens himself to everybody, and has as much self-respect as an inebriated coster. To him, everybody is hale-fellow-well-met, and he goes through life exhaling a profuse and uncomfortable familiarity at every pore. Generally he is utterly tactless and thinks it an effective stroke to thump his Hall-porter on the back while giving "good morning" to his chairman. He may, under certain circumstances, thump his chairman's back also, and expect his action to be taken in good part. Such a librarian gives tea-parties to his staff; discusses points of discipline with them; practices leap-frog with his juniors; and generally *plays* at keeping a library, as a child plays at shop-keeping. In many respects the Tomboy is more hopeless than the Toff, because he has no idea of personal dignity and

maintains discipline in such an intermittent manner as to tax the patience of everyone concerned.

However urbane and kind a librarian may be towards his assistants, he must stop short of familiarity, which not only spoils all discipline, but leads to laxity and untidiness in every department of the library. It is quite possible to manage a library and maintain discipline and good feeling among the staff without being either a bear or a spaniel.

Dates on Books. THE paragraph in your last issue will be of much service to those assistants, who, like myself, have experienced difficulty in knowing when a slip should go before or after another slip. If one were sure on this point at all times slip arranging would be an easy matter. There is another difficulty, writes a correspondent, which young cataloguers have to face, that is the peculiar dates on some of the older books. To test the knowledge of our younger assistants on this point, I asked a few of them what MDCXCIX stood for, and not one could tell me! I found that though they knew, in a general way that MDCCC stood for 1800, they were ignorant of what each individual letter stood for. I send the following in the hope that it will not only interest but instruct the readers of "The Library Staff." The following are the Roman numerals and their value in ordinary figures:—

M	=	1,000
D	=	500
C	=	100
L	=	50
X	=	10
V	=	5
I	=	1

It is the fault of the old printers that the arrangement of Roman numerals is a trifle complicated, but remember that an I or an X placed *before* a letter in a date *takes away* one or ten, as the case may be, from the following letter; for instance IV.—one from five are four; IX.—one from ten are nine; XC.—ten from one hundred are ninety, and so on. A numeral placed *after* another numeral *adds* that numeral on to the previous one, for instance, VI.—five and one are six; CV.—one hundred and five; CX.—one hundred and ten; CCLXXVIII.—two hundred and seventy-eight, and so on. It may be mentioned that the Roman numeral for ten is two V's joined together, one of them being upside down—hence X. Exceptions to these numerals are found in old books, the M's being sometimes in this manner CIↃ, and the D's like IↃ, therefore CIↃↃ is 1500. If assistants will look on the two C's which are equal to M, or 1,000, as a circle, thus—O, and consider it to be 1,000, then by cutting it into two CIↃ you have two 500's. This simple guide is worth remembering, as these two numbers M and D are, luckily for us, the only two the

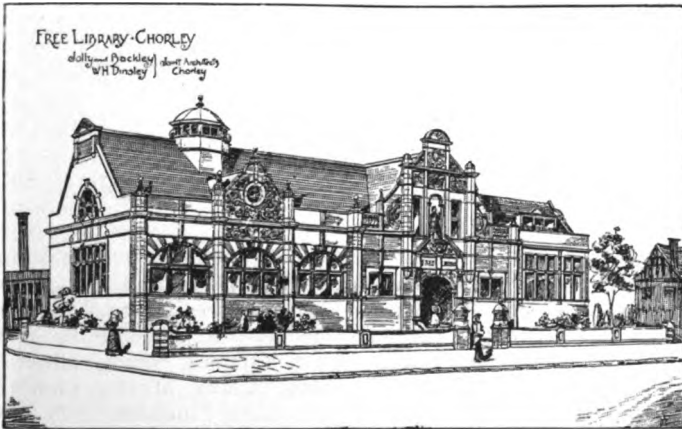
old printers used to juggle with very often. They show the difficulty of sometimes knowing the dates on old books, we give a few specimens from Mr. Wheatley's book "How to Catalogue a Library." Mr. Wheatley says, "The old printers were fond of playing tricks with the letters, and they allowed themselves much latitude in the practice of reducing the numerical power of one letter by placing another before itThe following dates copied from books show how varied were the arrangements formerly made use of:—MIID = 1498; MID = 1499; MCDXCIX = 1499; MDXXCV = 1585; MDIC = 1599; MDCVIV = 1609; MIIDCC = 1698." By a little thought and remembering the previous instructions these dates can be made out.



CHORLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY.



THE Chorley Public Library, which was opened on December 13th. by the donor (H. T. Parke, Esq., J.P., C.C.), has been built at a cost of £4,000. The building has a frontage to Avondale Road, extending 100 feet in length. The exterior is designed in the Victorian Renaissance style of architecture. One of the unique



features of the front is the brickwork in the main gables, which was carved after it was built. The main entrance to the building is through a wide stone doorway, approached by a flight of five steps, and over it is situate a pedestal base suitably carved with the Chorley Coat of Arms. Upon entering the vestibule of the building there are swing doors placed right and left, which lead to the general public corridor, bounded from the lending library by a solid oak counter. At the left-hand side of the counter is situate an office for the librarian or an

assistant, from which there is full control of the entrance and various rooms. To the left of the public corridor is a pair of swing doors leading to the news-room, which is a lofty and well-lighted apartment, designed in the form of a hall, with massive dark timbered roof, and with a large lantern dome light, with special means of opening the same for ventilation. The reference library adjoins the news-room, and provides accommodaton for special works of reference, which are arranged in cases round the walls. On the left-hand side of the public corridor are situated the smoke room and the boys' reading room. In addition to the usual mending and filing rooms, the librarian has a private office, which is approached by a staircase.

The library opened on December 13th, 1899, with over 8,000 volumes, of which 2,460 are in the reference library. There is a collection of Lancashire literature, which includes the transactions of the chief Lancashire Antiquarian and Typographical Societies. Local literature and that relating to Myles Standish will be specially collected. With the latter object in view, the library has recently acquired the first English and the first American editions of Longfellow's "Courtship of Myles Standish"; and the *facsimile* of the manuscript of Governor Bradford's "History of the Plimoth Plantation," containing the "Log of the Mayflower." As Duxbury (near Chorley) was the home of the Standishes, and Chorley Parish Church their burial place, it is fit that the local Public Library should make a special feature of the literature relating to the "Puritan Captain."

The Chorley Library is fortunate in having as Chairman of Committee, a book lover and book collector, in the person of Alderman A. G. Leigh, F.R.S.L. The librarian is Mr. Edward McKnight, who was formerly in the Wigan and Carlisle Public Libraries.



LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS.



AT **Aberdeen** we are presented with the spectacle of an inexperienced man being preferred to candidates of practical knowledge for the appointment of chief-librarian. The *Aberdeen Journal* comments upon this business with local knowledge, and we quote some of its strictures as being better founded than anything coming either from disappointed candidates or librarians jealous of the professional status:—"Out of the whole list of nearly forty candidates they selected the one man who is wholly destitute of experience in library work. . . . The advertising of the vacancy in the *Athenaeum* and the *Academy* was a mere blind. It was simply wasting the rate-payers' money, and causing needless expense and trouble to a large number of professional librarians, who, not knowing the peculiar circumstances in Aberdeen, were led to send in applications for the appointment. In order to effect this the committee has passed over the present assistant, who certainly had strong claims to succeed to the position of chief. They passed over the claims of Mr. Minto, a former

assistant, and they set aside as unworthy of consideration the qualifications of many capable and experienced librarians. . . . Had they intimated at first that they intended to do this and not gone through the farce of advertising the vacancy, we could have understood their action." We gather from other sources that a proposal was seriously made to retain the services of Mr. Robertson for six months in order to train his successor! Whether or not this is true we cannot say.

THE following important legal opinion as to the status of **Library Committees** will have great interest for the authorities in municipalities or districts where the question of the independence of Library Committees has been debated. The opinion refers to the Scotch Act, and our quotation is from the *Scotsman*. "A dispute having arisen between the Arbroath Town Council and the Free Library Committee as to whether the Town Council should have control of the library accounts, a memorial was presented to the Lord Advocate and Mr. Wilton, Advocate, for their opinion in regard to the matter at issue, and this has now been forwarded. They are of opinion that the Free Library is a statutory building, possessed of the powers and bound to discharge the duties specified in section 21 of the Act, and that independently of the Town Council, of which they do not think it can be regarded as simply one of its committees, and as such subject to its supervision. The 28th section of the Act gives the committee power, through its own clerk, to sue and be sued. Such a provision would not have been consistent with the view of the committee being subject to the Town Council in its administration of the Act. This section, in the view of the Lord Advocate and Mr. Wilton, applies exclusively to the accounts of the Town Council, quoad their own intromissions in the raising of moneys for the purposes of the Act. They do not think that the committee is bound to render to the Town Council accounts of its intromissions in virtue of section 21 with the moneys so paid over to it by the Town Council as the assessing body. There seemed no authority for this view in the Act, and the terms of section 30 of the Act, in providing only for an estimate of its expenditure being annually reported to the assessing body of the committee, are negative of such a contention. The committee can only apply to the Town Council for a specific sum, and the committee are not interested in the way in which it is raised by the Town Council."

A COMMITTEE has been formed from members of the **Bedford** Town Council "to consider and report upon the desirability of putting into operation the Public Libraries' Acts." We assume this must refer to establishing a library under the adoption of the Act which took place in 1889.

THE paper on "Open Access in Public Libraries," which appeared in the first number of the re-issue of *The Library*, is to be answered in the next (March) publication. We understand from Mr. Edward Foskett that he has been invited to contribute the reply, and has consented to do so.

There is published this month the first number of a new Monthly entitled "**Monthly Guide to Periodical Literature.**" It is an index to the contents of between sixty and seventy English Monthlies and Quarterlies dealing with subjects of general interest, and contains the titles of the articles, arranged in one alphabetical list; in a second list, the names of the writers, also alphabetically arranged are given, while a third list contains the names of the periodicals indexed, the addresses at which they are published and their prices.

At the January, 1900, Meeting of the **Abergavenny** (Mon.) Borough Council, it was decided that the Public Libraries' Act, of 1892, be adopted, and put into operation as soon as arrangements can be made and the necessary accommodation provided.

The question of adopting the Public Libraries' Acts for the Parish Council District of **Pinxton**, Derbyshire, is to be brought up at the next Annual Meeting.

At a meeting of **Greenock** Town Council held on January 2nd, Provost Black moved, and it was resolved that the Master of Works be asked to prepare a report on the suitability of utilising the old Post Office Buildings as a Free Library and the arrangements necessary, and also that the Town Clerk report on the legal steps required and the maximum rates of assessment that could be imposed.

The citizens of **Liverpool** have at last carried a proposal to increase the Library Rate to 1½d. at a town's meeting held on December 22nd, 1899. This will be included in the Liverpool Corporation Bill, 1900, and, if passed by Parliament, will enable the library authority to carry out many important improvements.

The new building of the **Acton** Public Library was opened on Wednesday, January 3rd, 1900, by the Hon. Mr. Choate, in presence of a distinguished company of local notables. In an early number we hope to give a description of this building with views. Mr. Herbert A. Shuttleworth is the librarian.

A CORRESPONDENT has written to say that he concurs in most of Mr. Sparke's ideas as to **Local Collections**, but must take exception to Mr. Sparke's exceptions, which, he contends, are quite unnecessary, besides being inapplicable, saving perhaps, to great centres of printing and publishing like London or Edinburgh. The social side of the life of a town is just as interesting and deserving of record as the municipal or archæological side. To deliberately recommend that a certain kind of locally printed sermon shall *not* be collected; that works of local authors are only to be represented at the discretion, we will assume, of succeeding librarians of different tastes; and that concert programmes (playbills?), and so forth are to be neglected, is not the counsel one would expect from a librarian. The matter, in our opinion, is not one for discretion at all. While one may hesitate at collecting contemporary

tradesmens' hand-bills or other broadsides, we should imagine even Mr. Sparke himself would jump at a bill a hundred years old, especially if illustrated. Again, does Mr. Sparke mean us to believe that there is no historic value in a collection of concert programmes or theatrical playbills? We should say that in small provincial towns, *everything* should be collected, within reason, which in any way illustrates or illuminates local history, habits, manners, amusements, or social and material progress. Even printed speeches, which Mr. Sparke would exclude, we should collect, and if political, should endeavour to enhance their value by gathering the bills or posters which led up to the meetings at which the speeches were delivered.

ACCORDING to a letter in the *Eastern Daily Press* of January 8th, it appears that **children** under the limit of age fixed by the rules for admission to the **reading-rooms** at Norwich, are not allowed to enter even when accompanied by their parents. Here is the incident:—“This morning my wife visited the Free Library, accompanied by a boy four years of age. When she had been reading some minutes, a man came up and told her she was disobeying the rules by bringing in a child under fourteen years of age. She replied she was leaving directly. In less than five minutes he returned, and said she must leave at once.” This seems an extraordinary interpretation of a rule which was adopted by public libraries in the first instance, to protect readers from the noisy intrusion of irresponsible youngsters unaccompanied by parents or elders. Surely it is not a general practice among the public librarians of the country to prevent fathers and mothers from bringing children under the age of fourteen, or twelve, as the case may be, into reading rooms or other parts of a public library. If so, we can only characterise it as one of the most effective methods ever devised of arousing opposition on the part of ratepayers to public libraries. But we are confident that this age-limit rule is not generally interpreted in such an offensive way, and we should like to have this opinion confirmed by librarians in various parts of the country.

THE Public Libraries' (Scotland) Act has been adopted by the Burgh of **Stromness** in Orkney, and Mr. Carnegie and others will find the means for providing a building.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS.

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THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

THE Third Monthly Meeting of the Session was held at 20, Hanover Square, on Monday, January 8th, 1900. Mr. H. Jones, of Kensington Public Library, occupied the chair, and about twenty members assembled to hear a paper on "London Topography," by Mr. Philip Norman, Treasurer of the Society of Antiquaries. This was illustrated by a series of water-colour drawings of old houses, inns, etc.

The notice summoning the meeting bears this intimation:—
 "NOTE.—*This paper by Mr. Norman, is intended to be introductory to a series on Topographical Collections in the Public Libraries.*" As many Public Libraries now use the electric light, we suggest that Lord Kelvin be called in to lecture upon Elementary Electricity, which has as much relation to the objects of the Library Association as lectures on Antiquities in London. Or, why not ask Lord Wolseley to lecture on the Art of War, in view of the public interest in the South African campaign, and the fact that some libraries possess a few works on the military art?

SOCIETY OF PUBLIC LIBRARIANS.

A MEETING of this Society was held at the Bishopsgate Institute, E.C., on Wednesday evening, January 3rd, when Mr. C. Whitwell (West Ham) read a Paper entitled, "How to form a library." An interesting discussion followed.

THE PSEUDONYMS.

THE Antiquary took the chair, in the absence of the Admiral, and the meeting had the glorious opportunity of discussing a subject without knowing the views of the opener. This was taken advantage of to the fullest extent, and a free, lively and altogether exhilarating discussion was the result. The subject was the Early Closing of Libraries from the Admiral's point of view, and members rose to the occasion, in his absence, discussing with point and flavour opinions he had never advanced, and controverting views which he probably never held. This opens up quite a huge field for practical discussions, namely, criticising and discussing, in his absence, the views which Mr. So-and-So may hold, is supposed to hold, or ought to hold. The members were by no means unanimous, but their conflicting opinions, afterwards harmonised in a resolution, may be briefly summarised as follows:—

1. It is bosh to consider the public so much. Readers never complain, whatever hours may be fixed, and it is quite easy for them to arrange to have their books exchanged if they are really anxious in the matter.

2. Municipal authorities should lead, not follow, the movement for shorter hours of labour all round. The example of a public board in overworking its assistants would have disastrous results.

3. The hours of assistants in libraries are too long as it is, and as it is impossible to keep libraries open over a lengthy stretch of day without staff, it stands to reason that early closing is the only solution.

4. Long hours of opening should be granted only in response to a wide-spread public demand.

5. The claims of assistants to reasonable hours are just as worthy of recognition as the public right to have its libraries open continuously all day and half the night. Minorities have their rights.

6. Those who talk about assistants having long hours or being overworked do so without knowledge. The average hours of library assistants throughout the United Kingdom do not exceed eight daily, and it is nonsense to talk of this being a hardship when people in business houses have to work from ten to twelve hours daily at less congenial work and often for less pay.

7. But assistants may have to work ten hours one day and six the next, which is an undoubted trial.

8. That be blown !

9. Assistants who work long hours at a stretch are not capable of performing their duties so quickly or so well as those who work short hours.

10. All this pother about considering the public rights, and the public this, that and t'other thing, is pure bunkum. The public don't want long hours, and don't require libraries to be open for ever and ever.

11. A great deal of this question has to be considered in relation to local circumstances. What may be convenient enough in a rural district with one officer, would never suit great centres of population like London, Liverpool, Manchester, or Birmingham. Besides which, it is notorious that the chief reason for the out-cry for short hours is the inability of the average chief-librarian to construct a mathematically sound time-table for his staff, so that his library can be kept open at all reasonable times without hardship or long hours to the assistants

12. My library recently adopted the policy of closing earlier every evening, and there have been no complaints.

13. As the public never complain, this means nothing.

RESOLUTION :—The Pseudonyms are of opinion that libraries should be kept open as long as possible, to suit the convenience of the public, without overworking the staff.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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EARLY CLOSING MOVEMENT.

SIR, —Having read your note on the Early Closing Movement, and your invitation for correspondence, I venture to mention the matter so far as relates to the library under my charge, confining myself to the main question at issue: Will the usefulness of the library be impaired by a reduction of the hours now open; or, in other words, will the public suffer through such alteration?

Blackburn, which has a population of 130,000, and consisting mainly of the working classes, whose work does not finish until about 6 p.m., has had the Early Closing Movement in operation since 1895, its lending library closing at 8 p.m. daily, except on Saturdays, when it closes at 6 p.m. Previous to the date mentioned it was open until 9 p.m.

The general public accepted the altered conditions without any demur whatever, and no expressions of inconvenience to borrowers have at any time been received, whilst the number of books issued has in no way decreased. It was found that it was always the same class of borrowers who made it a practice to obtain their books at the latest possible time (and I feel sure this is no isolated case), but with the altered conditions these tardy borrowers have perforce to come an hour earlier, and this has caused other readers, who have other opportunities during the day, to so obtain their books, and, instead of having the large crushes which formerly obtained, say from 7 to 9 p.m. it has greatly overcome this, and promoted a more general and equal distribution of labour throughout the day.

This, I think, would be the result in many other libraries adopting it; but, as the requirements vary so much in different localities, it is hardly to be expected that the same conditions will be applicable to all.

Blackburn Public Library.

R. ASHTON.

 "PHYSICIAN HEAL THYSELF."

SIR, —In support of the contention put forth at a recent meeting of the Library Association that the librarian requires educating as much as his assistants, I cull the following gem from a Library Bulletin recently issued:—

"A Munificent Gift. The . . . of the . . . have recently given to the library a work which should prove to be of immense value to art students generally. This is in four volumes of large folio size, and superbly bound in full morocco, richly tooled with gold. It is entitled 'Musées [*sic*] Français; recueil des plus beaux tableaux, statues [*sic*] et bas-reliefs [*sic*] qui existaient au Louvre avant 1815, par Duchesne Aine' [*sic*]. The volumes are entitled separately 'Ecole Allemande'; 'Ecole Italienne'; 'Ecole Française'; and 'Statues' [*sic*!]. The work is full of very fine steel engravings, done by masters of the art, from the magnificent collection of paintings in the Louvre, by the great artistes [*sic*], principally of the 17th and 18th centuries . . ."

In the list of recent additions to the library this work is also entered under Fine Art :—

“Ainé, D. Musée Française [*sic*]. 4 vols. N.D.”

To show there is no doubt in the cataloguer's mind as to the author of this work, it is entered in another part of this Bulletin under the heading “Principal Donors and Donations” as “Ainé's Musée Français, 4 vols., la. fol.” It would have been very amusing to the donors had this distinguished librarian talked learnedly of “Ainé's” beautiful book! As a matter of fact the work under notice is a re-issue, published in 1829-30, by Duchesne ainé of Croze-Magnan's “Le Musée Français . . . publié par Robillard—Peronville et Laurent.” 4 tom. Paris. fo. 1803-11. The descriptions of the plates have been abridged and an English translation added. The plates of the original edition are in much finer condition and are more valuable.

One can hardly credit the fact that this comically erroneous entry occurs in a Bulletin issued by the librarian of one of the most important provincial libraries in England.

A LIBRARY ASSISTANT.



TO THE ABSENT-MINDED —

(With apologies to Mr. Kipling.)

o o o

WHEN you've had your Annual Meeting ; when you've had your dinners too.

When you've each and all been patted on the back ;
 Don't forget your poor assistant who does work for little screw,
 While he's just as poor as any Grub Street hack.
 Hé is on the job quite early, and he's there till late at night ;
 And he knows he must'nt dare to take a rest.
 While he's blamed for all that's wrong, seldom praised when he's done
 right ;
 Yet his manners must be always of the best.

No hope—poor chap—matters can ne'er grow worse,
 Working on from morn to night, with never a thought of play ;
 Easing his feelings now and then in a deep artistic curse,
 But hoping his chief will call on the Board to
 Pay, pay, pay.

He must study foreign languages, philosophies, and trades.
 And must teach the juniors how to make the paste.
 He must read the "Athenæum," and the "Saturday's" tirades,
 To keep pace with Fashion's literary taste ;
 While the new books are to classify, and catalogue as well,
 And his chief keeps wond'ring how the time is spent,
 As he looks into his diary and madly rings his bell,
 And the scared assistant wonders what is meant.

Help him—poor chap—what a rough time he's had ;
 Reading at meals, spoiling his health by working an endless day,
 Thinking at times that things in his line are going to the bad,
 So think of his very small salary, and

Pay, pay, pay.

He is sure he'd be promoted, if his chief were but to die ;
 But the Struldbugs as a race have not decayed ;
 And a chief is never heard to wish for mansions in the sky,
 For he's got his house and coal and gas defrayed.
 So Assistants all must read like mad, for they know they've got to cram
 Looking forward to a coveted degree ;
 But for lack of time and money they've no chance in the exam.,
 And their future fortune rests with you and me.

Pale face—tired brain—seeing no ray of hope ;
 Thinking he'd rather try something else, though reluctant he
 must stay ;

Feeling the power to do good work, if only he had the scope,
 So think of the work he could do—and does—and

Pay, pay, pay.

J. J. K.



STUDIES IN LIBRARY PRACTICE.

o o o

II.—CLASSIFIED AND ANNOTATED CATALOGUING:
SUGGESTIONS AND RULES. By L. STANLEY JAST.THE TITLE. (*Concluded from p. 121.*)*Translations.*

76. In translations give the original title when quoted in the book (it not being usually worth while to make a search), as:—

Kant, Immanuel. On Education. (Ueber Pädagogik.)

77. It is however information of more value when the title of the English version differs from the original, as in the following instances:—

Erckmann and Chatrian. Great Invasion of 1813-14.
(Le Feu Yégof.)

Hugo. By Order of the King. (L'Homme Qui Rit.)

78. State the language of a book when this is not clear from the title, *e.g.*:—

Erckmann and Chatrian. Waterloo. (In French.)

Hugo. Les Misérables. (In English.)

Paston Letters, 1422-1509. (In original Early English text.)

Spenser. Faery Queen. (Modernised spelling.)

Dates.

79. Add dates (period dealt with) to the titles of works of history, as:—

Airy. English Restoration and Louis XIV., [1648-78].

(If the books are divided by period headings give in the catalogue only the periods of those books which do not coincide with the heading dates.)

80. In histories "from the earliest times," and such like, give only the date to which the book is brought down, as:—

Skottowe. Short History of Parliament, [to 1881].

81. And of works of travel (date of journey), as:—

Declé. Three Years in Savage Africa, [1891-4].

The date of travels, though sometimes unascertainable, is an item of so much importance as to be worth some trouble of search. Look up the start of the journey, and the end of it; dates are often mentioned here when referred to nowhere else.

82. And of collective biographies which fall into any sequence which can be called a period, as:—

Wilkinson. From Cromwell to Wellington: Twelve Soldiers,
[1642-1852].

83. And of correspondence and diaries, as:—

Landor. Letters, Private and Public, [1838-63].

84. But dates are often more conveniently treated in a note rather than in the description, as in the following instances :—

Hannay. The Later Renaissance.

The general period of the book is the 16 c. Spanish literature is prominently treated, its "Golden Age" (1516-1700) being treated as a whole,

Regan. Boer and Uitlander : True History of the Late Events in South Africa.

Traces briefly the history of the Boers from their settlement in S. Africa a hundred years ago to 1896, just after the Jameson raid.

Rowan. Flower-Hunter in Queensland and New Zealand.

The letters descriptive of the Australian scenes were written in 1890-92, those from New Zealand "some years later."

Abbreviations.

85. Shun abbreviations of every sort in titles, except that an important word repeated may be represented by its initial, as :—

Fiske. Discovery of America : with Some Account of Ancient A. and the Spanish Conquest.

(But write in full when the initial would be in the slightest degree ambiguous.)

THE AFTER-TITLE.

Editor, Translator, &c.

86. Names of Editors and Translators should be given after the title, thus :—

Lavisse, Ernest. General View of the Political History of Europe. Tr. Charles Gross.

Or a growing tendency in recent cataloguing may be followed, and the surname put first in all these records in whatsoever part of the entry they appear, as, Tr. Gross, Charles.

87. State, when there is an introduction, memoir, commentary, glossary, bibliography, &c., and when there are notes, if given on the title-page. Abbreviations may be used, as intro., mem., gloss., bibliog. Thus :—

Burns. Poetical Works. With gloss., notes, and mem.

88. If there is an editor or translator, the form is this :—

Steele and Addison. The Tatler : Selected Essays. Ed. A. C. Ewald ; with intro. and notes.

89. Specially contributed introductions, prefaces, chapters, appendices, should be noted from the title-page. Use c. for chapter, as :—

Bent, J. T. Sacred City of the Ethiopians : Travel and Research in Abyssinia in 1893. With a c. on the Inscriptions from Yeha and Aksum ; by Prof. H. D. Mueller ; and an appendix on the Morphological Character of the Abyssinians ; by J. G. Garson.

90. If there is an editor or translator as well, let the order be :—
 Translator.
 Editor.
 Other special contributions.

Each line corresponding to a full stop in the description, as :—

Plotinus. Select Works of P. Tr. Thomas Taylor ; with intro., containing the substance of Porphyry's Life of P. With pref. and bibliog. ; by G. R. S. Mead.

If not on title-page they will come in a note, not in the description.

Analyticals.

91. The neatest form of analytical reference is shown in the two following examples :—

Browne, Sir T. Pseudodoxia Epidemica. *In his Works*, v. 1 and 2.

Eassie, W. House-Drainage. *In MURPHY, S. F., (Ed.). Our Homes and How to Make Them Healthy.*

92. But when parts of a work are split up in classification, each part will be treated under its own class heading as an independent work, as :—

Kelvin, Lord. Popular Lectures and Addresses. V. 3., Navigational Affairs.

(*To be continued.*)



LOCAL RECORDS :

SOME NOTES & OPINIONS OF AN "OUTSIDER."

By I. CHALKLEY GOULD.

AT the close of last year the First Lord of the Treasury appointed a committee to "inquire and report as to any arrangements now in operation for the collection, custody, indexing, and calendaring of local records, and as to any further measures which it may be advisable to take for this purpose." Finding many librarians unaware of the issue of this Commission, and of the bearing it may possibly have on their position, I offer these few notes.

First, let me recite the names of those who comprise this committee :—The Lord Bishop of London, Right Hon. J. Bryce, Sir F. Mowatt, Sir H. Maxwell Lyte, Sir C. P. Ilbert, and Mr. S. E. Spring Rice, with Mr. Malcolm G. Ramsay as Secretary.

Schedule No. 1, issued by the committee relates simply to "Existing Arrangements." Schedule No. 2, which we have to consider, invites "Suggestions for the Future," and contains the following questions :—

- 1—Is it desirable to establish throughout the country local offices, under public control, for the preservation, arrangement, and study of documents relating to the history and administration of the district?
- 2—If so, what local centres should be chosen, and what authorities, local or central, should be entrusted with the duty of supervision?
- 3—What documents relating to local administration should be continuously preserved?
- 4—What inducements can be offered to owners of documents of antiquarian value, whether general, ecclesiastical, local, or personal in their character, to place them in public custody?
- 5—In what manner would it be expedient to deal with documents such as parish registers, diocesan registers, churchwardens' accounts, old terriers, old manorial rolls, records of manorial and local courts, old leases, old enclosure awards, maps, or others?
- 6—How can local collections be best made available for the student?
- 7—What would be the best mode of securing the services of competent custodians?
- 8—To what extent, if any, could local libraries, under public control or managed by trustworthy local bodies, be made useful for the purposes of custody?

Question 4 has a note stating that it has been suggested that landowners, trustees, and others, might, upon certain conditions, be willing to place title deeds, &c., in the custody of local authorities.

Although for many years taking more than an ordinary interest in the progress of the library and museum movement, I am not a "public librarian," and should hesitate to intrude my views in the pages of *The Library World* were it not that I am assured that the opinion of an "outsider" may be of value, even if only for comparison with ideas which may emanate from within the circle.

I may then state that in another capacity I have given the following answers to the questions propounded by the committee:—

- 1—Yes.
- 2—"Local centres." (1) County towns in thinly populated counties. (2) Large cities or towns in other cases. It might be well to distinguish between county records and more local records in the latter cases—the county records going to the county towns and local records to the large cities or towns to which they more strictly relate. "Authorities," see answers to No. 6 and 8.
- 3—All.
- 4—Until "land and property transfer" is simplified by the granting of a perfect title to all owners who have held land or houses for a certain number of years (say 20) it is hopeless to expect that owners will deposit "title deeds" (or documents which they consider "belong to the title," such as old court rolls and the like) in any other custody than that of their solicitors or bankers. If security of title were once granted, a vast mass of deeds, records, and rolls would be available for research, as the owners would have little reason to keep them under lock and key. . . . Documents not relating to title will probably gradually find their way to the selected repository as the scheme becomes recognized.
- 5—Parish registers should remain with the incumbent (provided that the church vestry has a secure safe) unless it is proposed to compensate the clergy for their loss of search-fees. All other documents referred to in this question could, with the owners' consent, be removed to the place selected for deposit.
- 6—By placing them in the hands of (1) Public Librarians, or (2) Town Clerks. In either case a *sine quid non* that fire-proof accommodation be provided and convenience afforded for examination of documents.
- 7—An annual grant to the Librarian or the Town Clerk, which amount would have to depend upon the probabilities of the work involved—this would vary with the size and importance of the centre selected.

8—Provided that satisfactory accommodation be afforded no better place could be found than the public library, but in those centres which do not possess a public library it would, I think, be necessary to fall back on the Town Clerk. The whole question being largely a matter of expense, I would suggest that, for other than literary or archæological enquiries and searches, a small fee be charged.

It is evident from my replies that I look forward to a time when "the library" shall be the repository of all local archives, and become a mine of wealth for the historian and the archæologist as well as the recognized source of information upon local official matters of yesterday and to-day.

No doubt there are many people who consider the preservation of this material for history of little value, but the interest in such matters is rapidly growing, and it is to be hoped there are few who share Jack Cade's sentiment, "Burn all the records of the realm."

In conclusion, may I suggest that librarians should, in these pages, express their approval, or otherwise, of the views given in my answers. It will be of great importance to learn in what manner librarians generally contemplate this possible addition to their responsibilities.

Since these notes were prepared I am glad to learn that a meeting of the Library Association has been held, at which this subject was discussed.



MILITARY LIBRARIES.

By B. CARTER, *Librarian, Kingston-upon-Thames Public Library.*



THE basis of the Military Library is the Regimental Institute, from which it derives both its funds and its readers.

The Regimental Institute is divided into two departments, (1) Refreshments and (2) Recreation; but it is only with the latter that we are now concerned.

It is laid down in the *Queen's Regulations and the Orders for the Army* that "the nature and objects of Regimental Institutes are, in conjunction with the Garrison Libraries, to afford the troops the means, within the barracks, of employing their leisure hours in rational amusement and the acquisition of useful knowledge, and thus to encourage habits of morality and sobriety."

Wherever possible, every military unit is provided with two recreation rooms, one for reading and the other for games, with a coffee bar for refreshments. They are specially furnished and supplied with fuel and light by the government.

The management is vested in a committee of three officers, assisted by a sub-committee of three non-commissioned officers appointed by the Commanding Officer. The sub-committee recommends the books to be purchased for the library of the station, and the newspapers,

periodicals and games for the recreation rooms. A regimental librarian has charge of these rooms, and he also obtains from the garrison library the books required by the subscribers and returns those no longer required.

The recreation rooms are supported by the voluntary subscriptions of the troops using them, and an annual government grant of £20 per regiment or other unit. They are open to all warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and men. The subscriptions are kept as low as possible, but they are never to exceed the following rates: Sergeants, and all above that rank, sixpence per month; Corporals, four pence per month; and Privates, three pence per month.

The Garrison Library is a central *dépôt* from which books are issued to the several regimental recreation rooms for the use of the subscribers. (Officers may borrow on subscribing one shilling per month.) It is managed by a committee appointed by the officer commanding the station from the members of the regimental committees. Books are purchased from a fund derived from a certain proportion of the subscriptions of the members of the regimental institutes and of the government grants, with an additional contribution of five shillings per quarter in advance from each troop, battery, or company in garrison, towards the pay of the garrison librarian and the expenses of management. The committee meets "at least once a quarter," compares the lists of books proposed by the regimental committees for purchase, and submits its final recommendation for the approval of the officer commanding, who is directed by the Army Regulations "to be careful, when sanctioning the purchase of new books, that a reasonable proportion of works of an instructive, as well as of an interesting character, such as histories, travels, and general literature are obtained . . . no works of an immoral tendency, or controversial character are to be sanctioned." The garrison librarian is generally a pensioned non-commissioned officer, and is appointed by the officer commanding the station.

The libraries are under the general supervision of the Director General of Military Education. The time of the librarian must be largely occupied in preparing for inspections, which occur pretty frequently, by an officer, not under the rank of Captain, with the Quartermasters in garrison, for the purpose of ascertaining the losses and damages of the previous month, and assessing charges. That is the system of barrack damages applied to books. A Garrison Board assembles immediately after the close of each quarter to verify the library accounts and the number of books in charge. If this board does its duty conscientiously it has a busy time, as it has to append to its report a certificate to the following effect:—

1. That the catalogue is legible and perfect in every respect.
2. That the numbers on the backs of the books correspond with those in the catalogue.
3. That the names of all missing and condemned books have been erased.
4. That the names of all books received since the last report have been added.

Finally, inspecting officers are to report on the state of the libraries and recreation rooms within their commands, as well as on the degree of attention paid to them by their librarians.

The Government provides libraries for troopships.

The library system seems much too complicated to permit of the building up of a well balanced library. It is evident that the garrison librarian is a mere official, whose duties consist of issuing books in bulk to the regimental librarians, keeping accounts and preparing reports. Book selection, in the first instance, rests with the regimental sub-committees, who are directed to endeavour to carry the wishes of the subscribers. The proposals of the sub-committees are subject to the approval of the regimental committees, the library committee, and the officer commanding; and with those instructions as to "instructive and interesting character, immoral tendency, political or controversial character," having to be interpreted by so many authorities, one wonders what kind of books eventually get shelved. But everything will depend on the officer commanding: if he is known to take an interest in the library and to critically examine the lists submitted for his approval; if he holds decided views as to what books should or should not be placed on the shelves; there will be a desire on the part of the committee to fall in with his views, and consequently those views will be impressed on the library for good or ill. If, on the contrary, he does not take an active interest in the matter, it is very probable that the regimental committees will have a free hand, with the result that the library will be built up in a very hap-hazard manner.

But, perhaps, after all, the real value of a military library depends more upon the manner in which it provides for the "rational amusement" of "Mr. Atkins," than by the way it attempts to assist him to the "acquisition of useful knowledge": for when "Tommy" is not engaged in "wiping something off a slate," he has much leisure time on his hands, and he is more likely to be attracted to the library by Kipling, than by, we will say, Alison.



A NOCTURNAL CONCLAVE.

o o o

NIGHT had fallen on the library, and all was silent. The lights had been extinguished for some hours and the dust was once more settling in quiet, but pertinacious, effectiveness all over the deserted rooms. Huge bookcases loomed black against the feeble moonbeams which penetrated the grime of the windows. Shadows were cast in all manners of fantastic shapes across the moon-flecked floor, and seemed eloquent of the death and obscurity which ultimately envelope literary fame. Twelve solemn strokes from a neighbouring church belfrey stung the night silence into temporary life, and the hour of midnight

was past. Suddenly a harsh, strong voice broke from the gloomy shade of a book case—"Curse me if I relish this neglect! For more than a century I have been recognised as a masterpiece and my humour has been appreciated by thousands, nay, millions of human beings. Now, I am being wrapped in oblivion, and when read at all, it is only by curious folks who have heard that *Tristram Shandy* contains a variety of spicy bits."

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* * *

"Ah! my ancient friend," exclaimed a fat *Medical Dictionary* some distance away, "You are not alone in being thumbed in particular places for certain kinds of reading. Behold me! Examine my fore-edges at P. S. V. and W. Observe at these points the black lines of constant use traced on my leaves by the enquiring fingers of readers in quest of information. Mark how easily and naturally I open almost automatically at the same places, and how clean I am everywhere else, and *then* deplore the lack of appreciation which has fallen on your unthumbed pages."

"Holy Blue!" vociferated a staid copy of *Balsac's Droll Stories*—dressed in theological black for the sake of decency—"The case of *Tristram Shandy* is my own. Is it not that I have been time after time cast aside in utter weariness till my reader observed of himself the *raison d'être* for Gustave Dore's leaves of figue? And then! have not all my passages of satire, of philosophy, of logic, of humanity been hop-skipt-and-jumped in the search for more leaves of figue! Bah! it is the nature humaine, which outlives theories and philosophies and systems and all else"

"Hear, hear!" roared *Tom Jones*. "My finest pieces, my clever and original introductions, are just in the same quandary as my young foreign friend's prologues. No one bothers nowadays to read them, but hurries on to overtake my tavern rows and bedroom misadventures. And I don't, for one, blame the people for their taste."

A huge book on *Human Morphology* was heard to chuckle in its dark corner, and presently it remarked:—

"These novelists seem incapable of understanding that all this is but a manifestation of the enquiring spirit of a scientific age. Look at me! These well-worn pages in my concluding sections are proof positive that few readers care a hang for the morphology of the eye, or physiology of the nervous system. What they want to know about is the great unknown; those marked differences in structure which cannot be studied in any one individual, hence this activity in the pursuit of knowledge of a recondite sort by absolutely unlettered persons. I say it is just this scientific spirit of enquiry and nothing else, which moves certain readers to pass with disdain my wonderful account of the brain tissues and find a kind of bewildering and fearful consolation in trying to understand the intricacies of anatomy further south."

"'Tis a curious thing," said *Byron's Poetical Works*, "that such a

tendency should exist everywhere for literature which our ethical advisers condemn, to be universally preferred by the great majority of readers. In my own case, as may be seen by examining my condition, all my beautiful lyrics of the 'Hebrew Melodies' are neglected, while my tragedies and epics are left unread. But, because my 'Don Juan'—a piece of mockery and a bauble at that—has been objected to by various straight-laced censors, it is forthwith quoted as the sole representative work of my poetical genius, and it, alone of all my productions, is read. With more freedom from the kind of cant which sees sin in every expression of nature, we should have fewer cases of authors being judged and appreciated by their least worthy works."

"Naebody has mair richt to speak on this subject than mysel," quoth *Burns' Poems chiefly in the Scottish dialect*. "Nae author was ever mair misguided than mine, by having a' kinds o' rubbish tacked on tae his name and printed in his books. Nae doot the vera man wha had the audacity to style him an 'amazing peasant,' and a 'faun,' has made rondels and ballades in his ain unbuttoned moments that he wadna' care about facin' in prent, and I'll warrant he'll no want his literary reputation to rest on *these*. Neither dae I. Change hoose liltis are made in change hooses for the folks that gang there, and are no for lads and lassies or young men and women of delicate nurture. That's why I feel in agreement wi' my young friend Byron in thinkin' that literary prudes shouldna' condemn a man's hale works on the ground that something indelicate has been admitted. As regards folk lookin' for sic stuff, if a reputed authority says a poet's a faun, it's only natural that they'll look for the hoofs and the lugs."

"I presume a lady may be permitted to join in this interesting debate?" asked *Moths*. "Well, it seems to me that if people prefer books such as my author's, which are frank expositions of modern life, they have every right to do so. Women and young girls prefer the works of my author's to those of any other novelist in existence, (*Sorrows of Satan*: 'Question! Question!'), and they do so because they are keenly interested in problems connected with Love. I hear about thumbed medical books, and poets read only for particular poems. My proud boast is that I am read for my 'altogether,' and not for isolated episodes or facts. Women are not dolls, nor are public libraries Sunday Schools, and I cannot understand the action of some public library committees in excluding me and my companions rom their shelves."

"I, too, have suffered the agonizing pangs of exclusion," remarked *Sorrows of Satan*, "but I am not conscious that my sales were diminished elsewhere in consequence. As the most popular woman-made book (*East Lynne*: 'I protest!') I naturally have something to say on the subject. It appears to be the general drift of this discussion to prove that library readers prefer questionable, or so-called questionable books, to those which merely convey hackneyed moral platitudes or scientific facts made easy. Well, it may be so, but I want to know what a questionable book is. Is the Bible questionable; or certain sacred books of the East; or books descriptive of religious rites and

ceremonies of a particular kind; or physiological books; or Malthus on Population, and the host of books arising out of it; or songs of D'Urfe's time; or anthropological books of travel; or books of pictures after the great masters; or slang dictionaries? When someone can answer me, I shall be able to say what a questionable novel is. Meanwhile, don't let us waste time in discussing a question on which agreement can never be reached, and regarding which no standard of taste, or test, can ever be established."

"For my part," said *Waverley*. "I think the young lady who has just spoken has hit the nail on the head. It will always be a matter for *individual* judgment whether or not a book is bad or otherwise. Common agreement in the matter was never arrived at in my day, and now, nearly a century later, the same divergence of view exists. I can, to some extent, sympathize both with the neglected author and the reader who delves about in quest of the more humanly interesting parts of a book. I suffer much from skipping, as do all my brothers and sisters, and it is heartbreaking to find my introductory and descriptive chapters ruthlessly passed over by the young; while, on the other hand, it is consoling to find them attentively read by elderly persons of mature judgment. It is our misfortune as books to have no means of pointing out to would-be readers our beauties and value, and that we have to depend upon a constantly changing public taste and conflict of expert opinion for our appreciation or the lack of it. The interest in the problems of life in all their varied forms never changes, and whether side-lights on such problems are to be acquired in the pages of an anatomical treatise, a missionary tract on the customs of savage tribes, or in a volume of loose amatory verse, it is not for us to complain, but rather rejoice that literature is resorted to as a principal means of conserving and distributing information on all subjects. Our owners, as public conservators of literature, have also a perfect right to use what discretion they may possess in selecting or rejecting this, that, or the other work. Personally, I am inclined to believe that a public rejection is more beneficial to the author than acceptance, and—"

"Gentlemen!" roared *Johnson's Dictionary*, "we have reached the ultimate limit of profit which can be yielded by this nonsensical discussion. Besides which, the dawn appears, and I hear the approach of the ruffian caretaker with his accursed brooms and dusting cloths. I move the adjournment of the debate."

Carried unanimously.

ON February 7th at the **Newington** Public Library, Walworth Road, papers were read by several young essayists upon their recent visit to the United Service Institution. Each paper showed that careful note had been made of the arms and objects of historical interest exhibited and patiently explained in detail by the courteous museum officials. There was a large attendance of boys, and the different accounts of the museum were listened to throughout with close attention.

FICTION ANNOTATION.

By HENRY BOND, *City Librarian, Lincoln,*

V.

HAVING, in a way which modesty rules unbecoming to specify, also borne a humble part in fiction annotation, and one that makes the paternal relationship of Mr. Jast to me even more remote than to Mr. Baker, if that can be imagined; also having on various visits to Derby watched with great interest, and entire approval of its principles, the growth of the manuscript for Mr. Baker's "Descriptive Handbook to Prose Fiction," I also feel justified in joining in the interesting and useful discussion evoked by the publication of that work.

I do not propose to say anything in reply to Mr. Brown's criticism of the work, for I consider Mr. Baker adequately answered that; and evidently Mr. Brown partially shares my opinion that Mr. Baker is "not to be lightly disputed," for, instead of turning again to rend him, he, "by the courtesy of the Editor," adds a respectful note to Mr. Baker's retort which certainly modifies his original strictures.

I propose to take up the gauntlet flung down by the last champion to enter the arena; in whose armour I think there are joints which may be proved weak, despite, nay, because of his article being largely an Amen to Mr. Brown's.

There is some truth in what Mr. Jast says about the author being indeed the novel, but it has little bearing on the subject. The proper answer to any such objection to Mr. Baker's classification is to be found in his article at page 178 of *The Library World*. There, and in the preface of his work, the objections to topical classification are met by Mr. Baker himself, by his explanation that "there is really no natural form of classification for novels . . . My scheme is admittedly a makeshift." The ideal classification is impracticable, because the terminology in use is vague, and useful for descriptive purposes alone. Mr. Jast chides Mr. Baker for using a topical classification, whilst holding that "a handbook to fiction must be primarily a critical guide," but surely arrangement by topics does not prevent a work from being a critical guide? The proper place for criticism is in the notes, not in the classification. There are obvious objections to labelling a series of classes as good, bad, indifferent, &c., as seems to be implied by Mr. Jast's suggestion that, "in the name of consistency," Mr. Baker should classify along these critical lines or according to "schools."

But there is not so much in "the author *is* the novel" theory as Mr. Jast tries to make himself believe. I pity Mr. Jast if he reads novels merely to find expressions of the temperament of their writers, and

more would I pity Mr. Baker had he read as many novels as he must have done recently for such a purpose. If this be all, why not an "M.A.P." of authors by the L.A. at once, and clear our shelves of fiction? Again, though Mr. Baker has issued a topical fiction catalogue, he does not propose that novels shall no longer find place in catalogues under their authors, any more than he would condemn the author entries in a general dictionary catalogue because there are subject entries; and the subject matter of fiction is by no means insignificant. We can't draw such a fine line of demarcation between the "literature of knowledge" and the "literature of power" as Mr. Jast would have us do. The two considerably overlap, and much more now than in the days of De Quincey. Now-a-days, the novelist discusses all subjects that agitate the human mind, and writes on all branches of knowledge; and often, too, illuminates the dry facts without distorting them. Indeed, the "literature of knowledge" to be found in fiction is so extensive that we must seriously consider whether it is not sometimes better to give precedence to the subjects of novels; and in annotated catalogues this would, at all events, be more economical, for so much annotation would be saved by arrangement alone; and even Mr. Brown proposes that there should be analyses of subjects, but not criticism. I hope Mr. Jast remembered, when he quoted De Quincey's two divisions of literature, that that writer also said in speaking of this subject—and it clinches what I have just tried to show—that "the reason why the broad distinctions between the two literatures of power and knowledge so little fix the attention lies in the fact that a vast proportion of books—history, biography, travels, miscellaneous essays, &c.—lying in a middle zone, confound these distinctions by interblending them . . . and, where threads of direct *instruction* intermingle in the texture with these threads of *power*, this absorption of the duality into one representative *nuance* neutralises the separate perception of either." No doubt De Quincey, if writing now, would place much fiction in the "middle zone"; and will Mr. Jast notice that even history is included there—a subject, I apprehend, he would not refuse to classify topically? What, asks Mr. Jast, "are the critical links uniting Fielding with Sir Walter Besant?" But the question is suggested to him by his own interpretation of Mr. Baker's words. The link is obviously rather historical than critical, but a valuable link; and, as a matter of fact, a topical arrangement would often bring schools of writers together too: this because, for some reason not altogether unaccountable, writers on the same country, &c., often adopt the same literary style—witness the recently constituted "Zenda" school, and many examples which may be found in Mr. Baker's catalogue. Of course there is a disadvantage in having one author in different parts of the catalogue, but the author index is quite as good a reply to that as a subject index is to the widely separated subjects in a catalogue arranged under authors.

Then Mr. Jast tries to show that critical judgment is pure individualism. Surely this is not accepted; there are two sorts of criticism philosophical (including comparative criticism) and mere impressionism

and the latter, as it is liberal, learned, sympathetic, tends to become philosophical, and to recognise the supremacy of literary canons and literary masterpieces. It is childish at this time of day to talk as if no such thing as philosophical or scientific criticism were possible, and that is what Mr. Jast's contention seems to mean, and not merely that a critic is to be silenced if he happens to be a librarian; an opinion which I do not endorse. If Mr. Jast will study that master of criticism, Matthew Arnold, and then re-examine Mr. Baker's methods, he will find no difficulty in reconciling the two. A closer examination of the "Handbook" would also reveal to him that Mr. Baker has maintained a sense of proportion highly creditable to him in view of the difficulty of so doing, and that he has avoided impressionism and attained to a philosophical criticism only possible by wide reading and careful comparison. Mr. Jast seems to think that there are many standards and few masterpieces of literature—woeful condition!—and that standards vary from age to age; but every well-educated man knows that happily we possess abundant types of what is eternally and universally excellent in literature, and even of the "literature of power," the priority of which is just as demonstrable as is that of the three masterpieces of "knowledge literature" Mr. Jast names with approval. True, if criticism must necessarily expound "what others may think" about a book, a consensus is undoubtedly impossible, but Mr. Baker only attempted to point out what is good literature.

But even granting Mr. Jast's opinion that authoritative criticism is "the criticism with which I agree." Is not the opinion of a person who has made a special study of the subject entitled to as much consideration as an anonymous contributor to a literary weekly? Why should not the cataloguer be involved in criticism as well as in pure description? And would not the majority of readers rather know what a trusted and cultured librarian thought of a book than "what the papers are saying"? Readers know that the motives of papers are not always free from guile, and that commercial and other considerations often influence the tenour of their reviews. But the fact is, like many another critic, Mr. Jast does "by no means object to" what he objects to *in toto*, but only to it "as introduced in the manner of this handbook," the special feature of which is that it is not his manner. And what is the manner he would propose? It might well be called the Contradictory Method of Annotation. His notes are "quoted criticisms" from literary journals, but what they say is of little moment; everything depends on their adjustment. Therefore he selects "two contradictory reviews," "one praising, the other damning." Then, you see, the reader takes his contradictory statements, constructs a parallelogram of forces, draws the resultant, and this is the authoritative criticism required—nothing can shake it. For example, this week's papers are noticing a romance entitled, "With Sword and Crucifix." The *Spectator* says (p. 212): "A stirring backwoods story . . . in which . . . are all entrusted with interesting rôles. . . . Altogether the story is breezily interesting, and at times really exciting." The *Speaker* sums it up as follows (p. 520): "It is supremely uninteresting."

Now, the ordinary person might feel a bit confused by these antagonistic views ; not so the library borrower carefully trained in the use of Mr. Jast's Contradictory Method of Annotation. He takes the notes, draws his parallelogram, and the demonstration is complete.

Mr. Baker has rarely used "quoted criticisms," has actually transgressed the convention that a librarian must never go beyond the title-page of a book or its printed contents, or the printed utterances of a review ; in other words, that he must respect the letter, and the printed letter only. Mr. Baker has dared to use his own knowledge and his own intelligence.

Mr. Jast quotes Mr. Robert Buchanan on Mr. Rudyard Kipling with approval ; I hope he also read what another voice, quite as worthy of notice, said about that writer in the January *Contemporary Review*. Of course Mr. Jast would recognise in these another case of conflicting criticism, but in his joy at this I hope he did not neglect to cull the gems from both Mr. Robert Buchanan's and Sir Walter Besant's articles for giving side by side when next he annotates Kipling. What Mr. Jast says is "appallingly inapplicable" to Rudyard Kipling is generally recognised by all who have read him thoroughly. He is at heart, and by blood ties, a Methodist ; and, though his hold of "the eternal aspect of things" is not always detected by the casual reader, it is nevertheless there. It is unfortunately, as some of us think, often overshadowed by other and more patent facts of his work, and evidently Mr. Jast, like many others, has been blinded by these.

Mr. Jast remarks that he is not picking holes in Mr. Baker's work, but would he think it fair for anyone to take even one of the Peterboro' or Croydon catalogues or guides, and to remark that such and such a note would not satisfy a follower say of Mr. Benjamin Kidd ? Mr. Baker's notes are not supposed to commend themselves to "Brontëites," or any other-ites ; they are just the people who don't need such notes, except for the writers they don't favour, and indeed, being faddists, would scorn any such help. Then, Mr. Jast, while boxing the printer on the ear for one misprint, with the other hand kindly presents him with two howlers : "Colonel Newcombe" and "Alwyn" !

Other parts of Mr. Jast's article have already been answered in Mr. Baker's reply to Mr. Brown, and little is to be gained by traversing the ground over and over again. One is challenged to reply at great length, but one has to remember that this is a technical journal, and so guard against too much generalising, as well as taking advantage of the Editor's generosity by encroaching too much on his valuable space. Enough, however, I hope has been said to call forth other expressions of opinion on this important subject, which, ere long, every librarian will be required to consider carefully, and to adopt an author or subject arrangement, with either Mr. Baker's laborious method of annotation, or, if he prefers it, the more facile and entertaining Contradictory Method of Mr. Jast.

[Owing to limited space, portions of Mr. Bond's article not considered relevant to the discussion have been deleted.—ED.]

THE NEGLECT OF PROFESSIONAL LITERATURE.

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MANY are the promising features of the library activity of to-day. But there is one feature which affords no ground for commendation, which, indeed, taken with its probable cause is fraught with ill-promise for the future of our profession and of library science. We allude to the feeble support which literature pertaining to librarianship, especially that in book form, receives from those for whose especial benefit it is written. Doctors buy medical books, lawyers buy law books, but librarians won't buy library books. How many public libraries are there which have a collection of books on library technology worthy of the name? Can it be that the librarian has no use for them? But let us suppose that *he* has nothing worth mentioning to learn from the text-books, no new ideas to gather, no "dodges" to pick up, no failures he needs to be warned against—has he no assistants? Putting it on the ground of mere utility, does it not pay the librarian to have assistants who know something of the theory of the various departments of their work, and whose knowledge is not limited to the system of the library in which they are engaged, and in many—probably in most—cases to the small part of the system which is bounded by their daily task? Will they not do *that* the better by reason of acquaintance with something more. Of course they will, the wider outlook making for greater intelligence and adaptability all round. And then, is it not the plain duty, as it ought to be the pleasure, of the librarian to provide the means whereby the aspiring assistant may fit himself not only to be a chief in his turn, but a good one? The type of newly-fledged librarian whose ideas cannot get beyond a minute reproduction in a new environment of what he was accustomed to in the old, will always perhaps exist to some extent, but he wants to be got rid of as far as possible. Little Bethel-ism in librarianship, as in religion, must necessarily flee before the wider knowledge and its consequent, the catholic spirit.

Here is a strange and instructive contrast. Do the students in engineering in a technical college, do the butcher and baker and candlestick-maker want manuals and text-books? The librarian and his committee are only too delighted to supply. Naturally. What is the library for? But the library staff and the literature of librarianship, that is a different matter. Why different? Why should Tom, Dick, and Harry, the other side of the counter, have trade or professional books on the shelves and the library assistant starve? Truly there is something rotten in the state of Denmark, something to be remedied.

There is a reason as we know for everything, be it good, bad, or indifferent. There is, therefore, a reason for the melancholy condition of affairs to which attention is here drawn. Is it library committees which are to blame? We have heard it urged that while a committee will buy books for nearly every calling under the sun, especially if practised locally, they will show an unaccountable disinclination to buy for the librarian as such. This may be so in some instances, but surely this disinclination is amenable to treatment, to the obvious common-sense argument that a workman must have his tools. It is safe to say that few committees—composed as they generally are of business men—would make any serious objection to the librarian's purchasing the books he needs in his own work without the express sanction of a books committee.

But we do not believe that committees are responsible in this matter. The fault lies nearer home. It is in ourselves. We are sorry to say it, but many facts which have been brought to our notice, nay there are facts patent to all, which point the unmistakable conclusion that there is a miserable jealousy, a niggling spirit of narrowness among us, which prevents us from recognizing any other work than our own, or any ideas which do not happen to be on all-fours with ours. We remember once approaching a certain gentleman whose personal and business relations with most of the librarians of the kingdom made him an authority on the subject, with a proposal for bringing out a certain library device—not an Indicator—and we suggested in the innocence of our heart, and with a natural and harmless desire for whatsoever professional *kudos* it might bring us, to call it by our own name. "My dear fellow," he said, "that would not do at all. However good the thing might be, the association of your name with it would damn it at once. You don't know librarians. I do. Many of them would say at once, 'What, buy anything of —'s? Not if I know it.' No, if we take it up, we will buy from you outright, and you mustn't have anything to do with it." A librarian will not subscribe to a particular library organ because, forsooth, it contains an article upon a system of library service of which he does not approve, or because a platform is provided for the younger men of the profession. Could anything be more paltry? And what is to be the future of a profession of which these things are not only true, but we are reluctantly driven to think typical?

In our opinion a library, unless it is a very small one, ought to buy everything in the shape of a library manual or journal that is published. There is not such a cataract rolling from the press as to cause it to be a burden on the funds of any library of any importance. Indeed, at present, the smallest town library might buy all issued in this country at any rate without fear of bankruptcy. It may be granted that, few as our English manuals are, they include some which despite the names on their title pages and the authority which is behind them, are entirely unsatisfactory, but still we submit they should be bought, not only because there are no others, but chiefly because it is necessary

that publishers should be able to rely upon at least the support of all the public libraries for any book of library technology they may put upon the market, if we are ever to have a representative, up-to-date body of such literature. We have as yet only the beginnings of a text-book literature. But though a few enthusiastic librarians may burn the midnight oil without pecuniary, or adequate pecuniary reward, in sheer devotion to the interests of the calling they have chosen, and though publishers (Sir Walter Besant notwithstanding) may be found here and there who will publish without a commensurate return, it is too much to expect them to do it, or having once done it, to go on doing it at an actual loss. And we believe we are correct in saying that a book appealing to librarians in their professional capacities—let it be on what it will—does spell inevitable loss. The only doubtful point is, how much? And the fact is not creditable to our professional *esprit de corps*.

The melancholy fact may be mentioned, in proof of this studied neglect of professional literature, that, although books actually exist giving full information about particular points in library administration, there are dozens of librarians who spend a deal of their own and other people's time, in cadging for information which could be obtained readily and fully in such books as we have noted, for the modest outlay of half-a-crown. There are many books which ought to be written, some which we badly need. In the meantime let us buy those we have, and give some reason for supposing that we are prepared to support a literature worthy of the noble profession to which we have the honour to belong.



SELECT LISTS OF BOOKS ON SPECIAL SUBJECTS.

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PRACTICAL AND HISTORICAL PRINTING. BOOK ILLUSTRATION AND PAPER MANUFACTURE.

By H. G. T. CANNONS, Sub-Librarian, Clerkenwell Public Library.

THE following list comprises books chiefly on the practical side of the art of printing which are in English and can be procured easily. The great foreign and older English historical works are omitted. Most of them can be seen in the Blades Library at the St. Bride's Foundation Institute, London.

BIBLIOGRAPHY.

- Bigmore (E. C.) and C. W. H. Wyman. *Bibliography of Printing*. 4° 3 vols. 1880-86. £6. 6s. Quaritch.
- Cotton (H.) *Typographical Gazetteer*. 8° 2 series, 12s. 6d. each. Clarendon Press.
- Madan (Falconer). *The Early Oxford Press: A Bibliography of Printing and Publishing at Oxford*. 1468-1640. 18s. Clarendon Press.
- Southward (John). *Catalogue of the William Blades Library*. St. Bride Foundation Institute. London. 1899.

HISTORY.

- De Vinne (Theodore). *The Invention of Printing*. New York. 1876.
- Heckethorn (C. W.) *Printers of Basle, in the XV. and XVI. Centuries, their biographies, printed books and devices*. *Ill.* Folio. 21s. Unwin.
- Hessels (J. H.) *The Haarlem Legend of the Invention of Printing*. London, 1871.
- Jacobi (C. T.) *Gesta Typographica, a medley for Printers and others*. 12° 1897. 3s. 6d. Matthews.
- *Anecdotes of Printing and Literature*.
- Roberts (W.) *Printers' Marks, a chapter in the history of typography*.

DICTIONARIES OF TECHNICAL TERMS.

- Blackshaw (Charles). *Technical Queries: a hand-book for students in Typography and candidates for Stationery Office appointments*. 6d. Raithby, Lawrence.
- Glossary of Technical Terms used in [connection with Printing Machinery]*. 8° 1892. 1s. 6d. Menken.
- Jacobi (C. T.) *Printer's Vocabulary: a collection of some 2,500 technical terms, phrases, abbreviations, and other expressions, mostly relating to letterpress printing*. 8° 1889. 3s. 6d. Chiswick Press.
- List of Two Hundred Questions, specially prepared for Typographical classes*. 8° 1893. 4d. Menken.
- Morgan (H.) *Dictionary of Terms used in Printing*. 8° 7s. 6d. Trübner

ENCYCLOPÆDIAS.

- Lockwood (H.) *Ed.* *American Dictionary of Printing and Bookmaking*. *Ill.* New York.
[Practical, historical, and biographical.]
- Ringwalt's *American Encyclopædia of Printing*. 1871. \$10. Philadelphia.

LEGAL.

- Powell (Arthur). *Law affecting Printers, Newspaper Proprietors, and Publishers*. 8° 1898. 4s. "Printers' Register" Office.
[Useful on any question arising between employers and employed, &c.]

LETTERPRESS & GENERALLY.

- Bishop (H. G.) *Practical Printer, containing valuable information for the apprentice, the compositor, the pressman, the foreman, and the proprietor*. 2nd edition. 1899. 8° 4s. 6d. Raithby, Lawrence.
- *Specimens of Job-Work*. 8° 1898. 6s. Raithby, Lawrence.
- Gould (Joseph). *Letterpress Printer: a complete guide to the art of printing*. 5th edition. 8° 1899. 2s. 6d. Marlborough & Co.
- Harland (John W.) *The Printing Arts, an epitome of theory, practice, &c.* 8° *Ill.* 1892. 2s. 6d. Ward, Lock.
- Hatton (J.) *Printing [British Manufacturing Industries]* 8° 1877. 3s. 6d. Stanford.
- Heim (Joseph). *American Commercial Specimens*. 4° 12s. New York.
[Designs for memo heads, business cards, cheques, labels, circulars, pamphlet covers.]

- Jacobi (Chas. T.) *The Printer's Handbook: trade recipes, hints, and suggestions relating to letterpress and lithographic printing, bookbinding, stationery, engraving, &c.* 8° 1888. Chiswick Press.
- *Printing: a practical treatise on the art of Typography as applied more particularly to the printing of books.* 2nd. 1893. 8° 5s. Chiswick Press.
- *Some Notes on Books and Printing. A guide for authors and others.* 8° 5s. Chiswick Press.
- Jerrold (Walter). *The Triumphs of the Printing Press.* 8° 1896. 2s. 6d. Partridge.
- Johnston's *Printing Diagram.* 50-in. by 26-in. 5s. Johnston.
[Intended for use in Elementary Schools.]
- Joyner (George). *Fine Printing, its inception, development, and practice.* 4° 8s. 6d.
- Kelly (Wm. J.) *Presswork, a practical handbook for the use of pressmen and their apprentices.* 6s.
[A thoroughly reliable handbook.]
- Machellar (T.) *The American Printer.* 8° 1878 \$2. Philadelphia.
- Manufacturer's Order Book for Printers and Stationers.* Folio. 5s. Marlborough & Co.
- Modern Letterpress Designs.* 4° 1899. 2s. Raithby, Lawrence.
- Oldfield (Arthur) *Practical Manual of Typography.* *III.* 8° 1892. 3s 6d. Menken. (Wyman's Technical Series.)
[Compiled as a text-book for students attending the Technical Classes in Typography.]
- Powell (Arthur). *The Printer's Primer.* 8° *III.* 1895. "Printer's Register" Office. Part I—Composition.
- Rayner (P. E.) *Printing for Amateurs.* 8° *III.* 1880. 1s. Upcott Gill.
- Southward (John). *Artistic Printing: dealing with display composition, colour-printing, classification of type designs.* 8° 1s. 8d. "Printer's Register" Office.
[Supplement to "Practical Printing."]
- *Modern Printing: a handbook of the principles and practice of Typography and the auxiliary arts.* 1899. 4 vols. *III.* 14s. Raithby, Lawrence.
- *Practical Printing: handbook to the art of Typography.* 2 vols. in 1. 8° 1887. 7s. 6d. Powell & Son.
- *Progress in Printing and the Graphic Arts during the Victorian Era* 4° 1896. *III.* 2s. 6d. Simpkin.
- Youth's Business Guide: A practical manual for those entering life* 8° 1895. 2s. 6d. Menken.
[Written by a Printer for Printers.]

IMPOSITION.

- Gould (Joseph). *The Compositor's Guide, a guide to imposition and making up compositors' bills.* 6d. Marlborough & Co.
- Joyner (George). *Display Composition, commercial, artistic, and old style.* 1s. 6d. Raithby, Lawrence.
- Williams (T. B.) *An American Handbook forming a guide to the imposition of formes; shows, in addition to usual diagrams, the folds of the sheet for each forme.* 8° 1898. Raithby, Lawrence.

CALCULATORS & READY RECKONERS.

- Blackshaw (C.) *Chart for ascertaining number of pages a given quantity of MS. will make in any specified size of type. Shows various sizes of book type in general use, number of lines to page, number of ems to a line, a foot, and a square inch.* 6d. Raithby, Lawrence.
- Boot's *Sizeometer.* An instantaneous calculator of surface areas; to find area of any block; proportions of any reduction or enlargement; to find number of ems in any page of print, and weight of type. 3s. Raithby, Lawrence.
- Cooper & Budd. *Printers' Price List.* 32° Interleaved for notes. 2s. Raithby, Lawrence.

- Ellis (John B.) Hints and Tables for the Printing Office and the Paper Warehouse. 32° 1899. 1s. Spark & Son, Leeds.
 Morton's Card Divider and Calculator. 6d.
 — Newspaper Calculator. 1s.
 — Stationers' and Printers' Sheet Reckoner. 1s.
 — Stationers' and Printers' Sheet Measurer. 1s.
 — Waistcoat Pocket Ready Reckoner. 1s. 6d.
 —Raithby, Lawrence.
 Rowell (G. F.) Hints on Estimating, including a comprehensive price list, chapter on bronze leaf printing, and hints on embossing, 8° 1s. Raithby, Lawrence.
 Square Measurements for Printers and Publishers. 16° 1899. 2s. 6d. Ward, Lock.

PROOF READING & CORRECTING.

- Blades (William). How to Correct Printers' Proofs. 8° 6d.
 [Thoroughly practical handbook.]

PUNCTUATION.

- Allardyce (Paul). Stops, or How to Punctuate. 1899. 8° 1s. Unwin.
 Beadnell (Hy.) Spelling and Punctuation, for Authors, Students and Printers. 8° 1880. 2s. 6d. Menken.
 Dickson (W. B.) Modern Punctuation. 1892. 8° 3s. Putnam.
 Rollings (Walter A.) The Elements of Punctuation, for Printers, Typewriters Students, &c. 8° 1899. 1s. Chadfield.

(To be continued.)



LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS.

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Communications for this column, which is not editorial, should be signed, as an evidence of good faith, and marked "For Libraries and Librarians." Such signatures will not be published unless it is specially wished.

MR. **Melvil Dewey** has resigned the secretaryship of the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York, a post he has held for many years. We learn from the *Library Journal* that "the resignation was the outcome of a battle royal over the codification of the educational law." Mr. Dewey still retains his position of librarian of the State Library and director of the Library School.

THE Aberdeen Public Library Committee at a recent meeting unanimously and heartily passed a resolution referring to Mr. **Robertson**, the late librarian, from which the following paragraphs are abstracted :—

"With reference to the resignation of Mr. A. W. Robertson, M.A., the librarian, the members of the Public Library Committee, desire to record on their minutes their high appreciation of his valuable services and their sincere regret at his departure. Appointed to the post of librarian in 1884, immediately after the adoption of the Public Libraries' Act, Mr. Robertson had imposed upon him the duty of organising the institution, and arranging its work from the foundation, at a time when

Public Libraries were in a more experimental stage than that occupied by them in recent years. . . . He had the chief responsibility of appropriately fitting it up, and to him the library owes the ingenious and efficient indicators used for registration of the issue and return of books. . . . The lending library has been twice completely catalogued in published volumes, numerous printed supplements also having been issued. Through Mr. Robertson gifts of many valuable volumes have been received by the library, particularly the three extensive collections of Dr. A. Cruickshank, Dr. G. Edmond, and Professor Croom Robertson, the librarian's brother. The retiring librarian has the satisfaction of knowing that he leaves the library in a completely organised and very efficient condition, with a stock of more than 50,000 volumes carefully selected to meet the requirements of every class of the community. In now parting with Mr. Robertson the members of the committee wish him many happy years and much success in any literary work to which he may devote his future days."

THE Choukhamba Sanskrit Book Depôt, of Benares, furnishes this refreshing specimen of "**English undefiled**" which most librarians will appreciate. The author, Mr. Hari Das Gupta, is no relation of the editor of the *L. A. Record* :—"With a view to give wide circulation no attempt has been made for remuneration and therefore I have fixed its price the detail of which as given overleaf is nothing by taking into consideration the varied and exquisite taste of the subjects it deals with."

THE **Gateshead** Public Library has recently been considerably enlarged. The removal of the General Post Office from Swinburne Street to West Street has given additional accomodation to Corporation offices, and the old sorting room of the Post Office has been converted into a reference department of the library. Hitherto there has been no real facility for the numerous readers consulting books. There will now be space for 5,000 volumes of reference, and though the committee are not possessed at present of that number they hope to be able to reach it in due time, a special annual grant from the Corporation out of the Excise and Customs duties being most helpful to them in that respect. A very successful conversazione in connection with the re-opening was held recently, at which most of the Gateshead notables appeared, including Mr. Johnston, the librarian.

MR. **James L. Whitney** has been appointed chief librarian of the Boston, Mass., Public Libraries. His portrait and biography appear in the *Library Journal* for January 1900. Mr. Whitney was for many years sub-librarian at Boston, and has been long and honorably connected with the library profession in the United States.

A HANDSOME donation of about 4,500 volumes has been made to the **Peterborough** Public Library by the Peterborough Book Society. This collection was commenced in 1730 by the Peterborough Gentlemen's Society, a close associate of the famous Spalding Gentlemen's

Society. It contains numerous valuable books and manuscripts, among which are a Latin Bible in black-letter with illuminated capitals, printed by John Froben, at Basle, in 1495; an illuminated MS. copy of "The Pricke of Conscience," written about 1340, by Richard Rolle, of Hampole; another MS. consisting of the life of St. Edward the Confessor, supposed to have been written in the 12th century. There are also many noted ecclesiastical and topographical works, and a substantial number of modern standard works of history, biography, travel, and poetry.

We have received from Messrs. A. & C. Black the 1900 editions of **Who's Who** and *The Englishwoman's Year-Book*, both of which excellent reference books should find a place in every Public Library. We have already published a communication suggesting improvements in regard to the municipal biographies in *Who's Who*, and we now suggest that the article on librarianship as a profession for women in *The Englishwoman's Year-Book*, which has appeared before in former issues, if we mistake not, should be revised.

A NEW Branch Public Library is to be erected at Stocks Hill, Armley. The estimated cost is £5,000. The plans for the building were approved of at a recent meeting of the **Leeds** Library Committee.

MR. C. J. HALL, solicitor, and Doctor of Music, of Manchester, has offered to the Free Libraries Committee of the **Manchester** Corporation his musical library of several hundred volumes of valuable works. He has thus followed the example of Dr. Henry Watson, who in September last made an even more extensive gift of the same kind to the Corporation. Dr. Hall hopes that the joint gifts may prove the foundation of a really fine library of musical works.

THE committee of the **Guildhall** Library has thoroughly overhauled the directory room, which has been much enlarged, and provided with stands placed in position for the display of the London daily newspapers and the early editions of the evening papers. The public much appreciate the increased facilities for reading the latest news.

ON January 31st the Public Library in the new municipal buildings of **Conway** was opened by Professor Phillips, of Bangor, who delivered a most interesting and instructive address.

THE Town Council of **Pollokshaws**, near Glasgow, will discuss a motion to adopt the Public Libraries' (Scotland) Acts early in March.

THE **Rotherhithe** Public Library Committee has been instructed by the Vestry to consider and report upon the advisability of reducing the age limit from 14 to 11 years.

ON February 15th the **St. Helens** Public Libraries Committee opened an exhibition of the more costly and fine art books, in the Reading Room of the Gamble Institute. Hundreds of books and curios, old and new, were arranged in their classes by Mr. A. Lancaster, the chief librarian, and the whole exhibition was the source of great interest to the visitors.

THE Public Libraries' Acts have been adopted by **Blackrock** Urban Council, and it has now been resolved to procure plans for the erection of a post-office and library building at a cost not exceeding £1,500.

NOTICE has been given to take a vote on the question of adopting the Libraries' Acts for the Urban District Council of **Stonehouse**, Devon.

A PROPOSAL by the **Liverpool** Technical Instruction Committee to withdraw the annual grant of £250 for technical books, given to the Public Library, was defeated by 39 to 27 votes.

PROVOST BLACK, of **Greenock**, has given notice that on March 9th he will move the adoption of the Public Libraries Acts. A penny rate in Greenock produces £1,200, but it is hoped to begin with a $\frac{1}{4}$ d. rate.

ON February 1st, at the Camberwell Central Library, Mr. **Edward Foskett**, F.R.S.L., the chief librarian, gave "The first reading of a Cornish Romance, with notes on imaginative literature." The original story which Mr. Foskett told proved of absorbing interest. It riveted attention for about an hour, eliciting frequent applause.

A NEW Public Library building has been erected at North William Street, **Dublin**. It is intended to meet the requirements of the residents of the Mountjoy and North Dock Wards, who are largely composed of the working class. The general design of the building is modelled on the Lurline Gardens branch, Battersea, with certain modifications to suit the site. It is a single-story structure, the various departments being so arranged that by an ingenious use of glass partitions, the librarian or his assistants can oversee the whole. The shelving is designed to accommodate 8,000 volumes. The reading room is large, lofty and well lighted, and is provided with stands where all the daily papers can be read. Magazines and illustrated papers will be placed in patent racks, available to the public without restriction.

SOME time ago we drew attention to the action of the Croydon Public Libraries' Committee in providing **telephonic communication** between the central library and its branches. There are great advantages attaching to such facilities for carrying on the work of a large library, and we think it may interest librarians to know that any public library can secure a complete telephone service for a comparatively small expenditure under certain circumstances. If the library is housed in the Town Hall, and, as is usually the case, the Town Hall is connected with the Telephone Exchange, an extension may be had of a special wire to the library for a sum not exceeding one guinea per annum. If the library is housed away from the Town Hall having the Exchange service, the cost of an extension to the library will be £4 10s. per annum on a five years agreement, in London, and something less in other towns. In London where there are so many public libraries within the limits of the same series of exchanges, arrangements could easily be made for extensions from Vestry Halls to the libraries. The convenience is very great, and the only inconvenience is the liability of being rung up by mistake by some vendor of drain pipes!

LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS.

THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

THE Fourth Monthly Meeting of the Session was held at 20, Hanover Square, on Monday, February 12th, at 8 p.m. Mr. Potter was voted to the chair, and Mr. W. E. Doubleday, Librarian of the Hampstead Public Libraries, read a paper on "Local Records and the Public Libraries," before a larger audience than assembled to hear Mr. Norman. The paper was a commentary on the schedules issued by the recently appointed Local Records' Committee, and was practical and to the point. Mr. Doubleday considered that each district or town should keep its own local records, and that the proper place for them was the Public Library, wherever there was one. The Corporation or other authority, however, should be called upon to provide the strong-room necessary for their safe keeping, and also to pay all other expenses. In the discussion which followed, Messrs. Davis, Jast, Jones, Quinn, Kettle, and the chairman took the principal part. It was unanimously resolved that the Local Records' Committee be asked to receive a deputation from the Association, by which the before-mentioned views might be submitted.

The Education Committee of the Library Association announce the following courses of lectures, forming the third series of classes:—

(1) ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE, by Mr. W. E. Doubleday (Hampstead Public Libraries), on Wednesdays, at 3.30 p.m., at the Central School of Arts and Crafts, 316, Regent Street, W., commencing Wednesday, February 14th, 1900. (Eight lectures.)

Text-book: Brooke's "Primer of English Literature." Books recommended for additional reading: Saintsbury's "Short History of English Literature," Gosse's "Modern English Literature," Morley's "First Sketch," Dowden's "Shakespeare Key."

(2) SUBJECT CATALOGUING (DICTIONARY AND CLASSIFIED) FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES, by Mr. J. Henry Quinn (Chelsea Public Libraries), on Wednesdays, at 5 p.m., at the Central School of Arts and Crafts, 316, Regent Street, W., commencing Wednesday, February 14th, 1900. (Eight demonstrations, followed by class practice.)

Text-book: "Manual of Library Cataloguing," by J. Henry Quinn. (Library Supply Company, 5s. net.)

(3) PUBLIC LIBRARY OFFICE WORK, by Mr. Henry D. Roberts (St. Saviour's Public Library), on Thursdays, at 3.30 p.m., at the Central School of Arts and Crafts, 316, Regent Street, W., commencing on Thursday, February 15th, 1900. (Eight lectures.)

(4) FRENCH LITERATURE, by Miss Hentsch, on Thursdays, at 5 p.m., at the Central School of Arts and Crafts, 316, Regent Street, W., commencing on Thursday, February 15th, 1900. (Eight lectures.)

Text-book: Saintsbury's "Primer of French Literature." (Oxford Warehouse, 2s.)

FEES.—The following fees, in all cases payable in advance, will be charged for each course of lectures, but half-fees only will be asked for each additional course taken by students:—Senior library assistants, 5s.; junior library assistants, 2s. 6d.; all other students, 10s. 6d.

THE PSEUDONYMS.

THE "Open Door" was the subject for debate at the last meeting and the discussion rambled all over, under, and around this topic, every conceivable aspect of the question being presented, besides views on side issues, which included the tactics of General Buller and the price of coal. A happy evening was spent in the pleasant occupation of flouting each other's opinions, and in removing every neighbour's landmark who did not conform to the ideas of the members present. The Christian opened the debate with great vigour—in the absence of Miss Glory Quayle, at present touring in the provinces—and took the line that, in the interests of librarianship as a profession, outsiders should be excluded from participation in any classes, summer schools, or examinations held by the Library Association. Such a policy as free competition, he contended, was grossly unfair to the junior assistants, who had been content to enter the profession at the bottom of the ladder with the intention of going through the mill and working upwards, naturally expecting, as the result of their endeavours and self-sacrifice, certain promotion. The action of the L.A. in establishing classes and examinations open to outsiders, and granting diplomas for which they could compete, had the effect of rendering the self-sacrificing endeavours of these juniors abortive, because any "duffer," absolutely devoid of technical knowledge, might dazzle a Library Committee with a L.A. certificate of proficiency in French literature, and so receive an appointment, to the great prejudice of assistants who had faced the dirty work of practical librarianship. Admitting such kid-gloved outsiders was putting a premium on the University young man with his *side* and parrot-like facility in passing exams., for which cramming and time alone were necessary. The practical assistant was thus put to the great disadvantage of being pitted against an individual with lots of time for cram, while his own practical training was completely discounted by the technical section of the L.A. examination being largely theoretical, and at the easy command of any outsider with leisure to study text-books. While agreeing with the view that the public were entitled to the very best talent which could be secured for the miserably inadequate wages paid by the Free Library Committees, he thought that it would be much better for the L.A. to make the most of the existing practical talent already enrolled in the ranks of library assistants, and not make the lot of such poor devils harder than it was by offering an "open door" to every destitute alien who preferred to work with his coat on.

The discussion which followed this vigorous opening was lively in the extreme, and the various views aired below will give some idea of extent of the argument. Luckily no blood was shed, while the views of absent members were, as usual, boldly voiced by those present, who thus thought to gain a show of support for their contentions:—

(1) The examinations of all professions are open to outsiders, without apprenticeship conditions, and particularly the civil and municipal services, with which librarianship stands in close relationship.

The object of such open competition is to attract the very best talent of the country ; and why, therefore, should Public Libraries be regarded as a strict preserve for assistants, who may have been, in the first instance, appointed through influence on the committee, and not because of special fitness or education ?

(2) The Library Association is composed of others besides librarians, and it would be utterly impossible for the council of that body to exclude persons not actually engaged in library work from its examinations and classes. Such a policy would exclude members of the Association itself who pay for this feature of the work, not to speak of the sons and daughters of librarian members, and brothers and sisters of assistants, who might want to learn something about the profession of their relatives.

(3) There is little fear of the L.A. diplomas being flourished all over the country, because, as a matter of fact, precious few have ever been gained, either by outsiders or insiders. Not only that, but even if they did exist in larger numbers they would carry very little weight, because the L.A. is neither a recognised teaching nor examining body, nor are its classes and examinations particularly valuable.

(4) Whatever may result from the L.A. examinations and resulting diplomas, even when they have grown a hundredfold, it is impossible to ignore the fact that the open door to librarianship will always be an open door, for the simple reason that local *influence* discounts diplomas, ability, and everything else. No action of the L.A. can ever counteract this factor, and no amount of shut and double-locked doors will prevent outsiders from being appointed over the heads of those who have "gone through the mill."

(5) Surely this is an argument in favour of the closed door ? Look at the Aberdeen case. Was that not enough to prove that the profession of librarian must be protected from the inroads of outsiders ?

(6) This point is not on all fours with the question at issue. Besides, how would the exclusion of anyone from a L.A. examination in London prevent a Library Committee, in Aberdeen or anywhere else, from appointing as librarian anyone it thought fit ?

(7) If the principle of the closed door were applied to all professions, it would tend to keep inefficient men in and capable men out, and thus clog these professions ; whilst a freedom of movement to more suitable professions would tend to the general advancement all round.

(8) If someone could suggest a good way of getting rid of the existing assistants, who are both incompetent and lazy, and closing the door on successors of a similar sort, he would earn, not only a diploma, but a substantial testimonial. I have no faith in the earnest, studious, industrious, pushing, capable all-round assistant, about whom so much has been heard. He exists—in dreams, and shines—on paper, particularly in the *Library Assistant*, but he is very seldom to be met with.

The real assistant who has any grit in him, and intends to follow out the work, invariably succeeds in spite of all obstacles. Gentlemen, *We* are examples. (*Enthusiastic chorus of "Hear, hear!"*) This type of assistant requires no special protection of his interests, nor any special variety of providential intervention on his behalf. He never had classes in our time, or all sorts of grandmotherly fussing about his precious health and well-being. Nor was he anxious about outsiders being excluded from anything, considering how even a library assistant must begin as an outsider. He was a *man*, to begin with, and not a miserable weakling, frightened at the shadow of honest competition, and whining for aid from a professional society, under cover of which to hide his incompetence, and secure an easy path to promotion. I sympathise with these poor, invertebrate young men, and should welcome some speedy and effective plan of arming them against their fears. But I fail to see why their brother citizens should be excluded from studying librarianship in L.A. or other classes, in order to place a premium on ignorance, which has secured possession of a kind of vested interest by unknown means.

(9) The observations of the last speaker are to the point. What libraries and librarians require is protection against candidates who are inherent duffers, and some efficient means of preventing them from getting into libraries at all, either by force of influence or on the strength of a new tall hat and a silk-lapelled frock coat. To secure this very desirable end, examinations should take place at the fountain-head—the original appointment of all assistants—and Library Committees should institute stiff tests and stick to them. An examination in elementary knowledge would be enough to weed out absolute duffers, and the Library Association might expend some of its energy in drawing up a specimen series of examination questions and circulating Library Committees on the subject.

RESOLVED :—

That Library Committees should hold preliminary examinations for junior positions on their staffs, and that the Library Association should address a circular to library authorities to that effect.

SONGS OF THE PSEUDONYMS.

III.—THE OUTLANDER'S SONG.

[This song is respectfully dedicated (without permission) to the North Western Branch of the Library Association. It is licensed to be sung at Summer Schools and at all meetings of library assistants.]

TUNE: (for Scotchmen) "*There cam' a young man to my Daddy's door*"; (for Englishmen) "*O dear, what can the matter be*"; (for Irishmen) "*Go to the Devil and shake yourself.*"

WHEN I left school my father said :
 "What will you do to earn your bread?
 You have the church, the law, the sea."
 Quoth I : " A library for me."

Chorus—Ha ! ha ! ha !
 We live to deplore
 The Open Door,
 But *he* won't trouble us any more.

My education was so good
 That every art I understood.
 In all the 'ologies I'd crammed,
 And what I didn't know I shammed.

I went to certain Summer Schools,
 And there met several other fools.
 I studied hard, and spared no pains :
 The lecturers supplied the brains.

I learned to classify a book
 Where none would ever think to look.
 To catalogue I would engage,
 And never turn a title-page.

The first librarians in the land
 (The rest don't count) took me in hand.
 And what they taught, I heard with awe ;
 And when they cried : " D'ye see ?"—I saw.

I did the things I ought to do ;
 And swore by Indicators too.
 I shrank in horror, struck quite dumb
 From aught that was not Rule-of-thumb.

I left the School a spick and span
 Machine-made full librarian.
 Quoth I : " I'll get a place, and then
 I'll draw my screw and suck my pen."

But sooner said than done, I found,
 Committees I could not get round,
 Despite my manners, air, and weight,
 My frock-coat and certificate.

Now, what to do to earn my bread
 I do not know ; my funds are sped.
 Librarianship 's a fraud—that's clear ;
 For Africa I'll volunteer.



LOCAL RECORDS.

o o o

WE are informed that at a recent meeting of representatives of some important learned societies a resolution was adopted by an overwhelming majority that Public Libraries should have no connection with the custody of Local Records.

We believe this startling answer to Question 8, Schedule 2 of the Treasury Committee is to be attributed partly to ignorance of the extent to which libraries are already the homes of local documents.

The editor will be glad to receive answers to the questions appended to this, in order that some light may if possible be thrown on this point.

We contend that libraries and museums are the most suitable places for the deposit of all records and documents not of present-day legal importance, while recent records may perhaps be better housed in stores attached to county council or town clerks' offices.

We ask especially for those papers which are of historical antiquarian, or archæological interest such as old court rolls, registers, terriers, leases, maps, letters, and the like.

The principal objections which have been raised against our custody are two.

1st. The want of safe places of deposit.

This argument applies with equal force to nearly all other existing places suggested, and is to be met in the same way.

2nd. The want of knowledge of palæography on the part of librarians.

It may safely be said that the same objection applies to any other existing body in provincial towns and suburbs, but that which can be learnt by clerks of county councils or solicitors' clerks, can equally well be learnt by librarians and custodians of average intelligence.

Unless it is to be made a penal offence for owners to give their treasures to local museums and libraries, we believe that many interesting documents and records will continue to find their way to these institutions—an end to be devoutly desired and for which preparation should be made.

QUESTIONS.

- 1.—Have any charters, documents, registers, terriers, records, deeds, old MSS., letters, maps, &c., been given to, loaned to, or acquired by your library (or museum)? If so any information as to their nature is desired.
- 2.—To what extent, if any, has provision been made for the safe custody of records of value? Is there a strong room attached to, or in the same building with the library (or museum)?

Kindly address reply to the Editor, *Library World*, 4, Ave Maria Lane, London, E.C., marking envelope or post-card "Local Records."

In connection with this important matter, Mr. George Rickward, Borough Librarian, sends us information as to what has already been accomplished at Colchester.

"The Records of this ancient Borough are exceptionally well cared for and are accessible to duly qualified persons upon application to the Museum Committee, in whose custody they are.

In the Town Hall, now in course of erection, three rooms, fire and damp proof, have been reserved for storage, and for the accommodation of searchers. These rooms are in close proximity to the Public Library.

By resolution of the Council, the Library receives advance copies of all reports and minutes of Council and Committee proceedings, which are bound up annually and preserved for public reference, together with any newspaper comments thereon, or cognate matters. These volumes are officially known as the "Red Books of the Corporation." a title taken from an ancient record of a similar character.

So far as Parochial Records are concerned, I have, with the permission of the Incumbents, transcribed and indexed the Registers of three out of the twelve Parishes into which the Borough is divided and have deposited the transcripts in the library.

That the policy of making Public Libraries depositories of Local Records is a right one I am fully convinced, and where the librarian takes an interest in them, he should be in an exceptionally favourable position both to guide searchers and do good work himself, but it must be borne in mind that, as a rule, the staff of our libraries is not large enough, on our present restricted income, to cope with much additional work."

We understand that representations have been made to the Commissioners who are conducting the enquiry, strongly urging the claims of local County authorities to be the depositories of all records. The idea is to distribute the documents as little as possible, by confining their custody to the smallest number of authorities, and thus, it is argued, economy will be conjoined with efficiency. While we see no objection to central county authorities having *copies* of everything in their charge, we certainly can see no good reason for depriving the smaller local authorities of the custody of their own original records. If County Councils were appointed paramount authorities, entrusted with the task of making uniform regulations for the safe keeping, cataloguing, and issue of public records, there could be little objection, provided always the documents were kept in their place of origin.



READING LISTS.

By ERNEST A. SAVAGE, *Branch Librarian, Croydon Public Libraries.*

o o o

THERE is one part of a librarian's work which, strangely enough, is almost wholly neglected, though it would probably do very much indeed towards popularising our Public Libraries, and towards impressing people with a strong sense of their usefulness. I refer to the compilation of reading lists. The majority of Public Libraries in England do not provide these lists for their borrowers. Some compile one now and again. Very rarely is a practice made of issuing them frequently, and with due regard to their object, the benefit of the library's *clientèle*. Often enough they deal with some subject chosen by the librarian after a considerable deal of misdirected thought, or with a topic which was the talk of the country a few months ago. It is hardly necessary to say that the public will not use such lists: they do not want a list of books which a mere librarian considers they ought to read, nor one on a subject which is now ancient history. Neither do they want a bibliography, nor a literary work of permanent nature, which by reason of its good arrangement, its completeness, and its critical notes, is intended to give *kudos* to the compiler rather than to supply their requirements.

A reading list would seem to be an attempt to supply in an intelligible, helpful form, a list of the most important material in a library on a subject which interests many of its borrowers, and about which they are seeking additional information. The necessity for the list arises quite naturally out of public or local events, such as reform movements, foreign complications, lectures, public classes, etc. For example, note some important subjects for lists which came to the front during the last few months of 1899: the Transvaal Question, South Africa, the Army, Grant Allen, and many others, without taking into consideration those which local events might have occasioned.

I said the most important material, for it is neither intelligent nor helpful to quote the whole of the books on the subject in hand, without considering whether they are useful or worthless. A mass of references often only serves to confuse the reader—they probably are not drawn up with careful regard to their value—whereas a collection comprising the most important items, clearly arranged, with descriptive annotations, is likely to give him considerable assistance. To make a selection helpful, it is of the first importance that it should be issued when it is required. As soon as some topic appears to engage the mind of the public the list must be compiled; you must immediately endeavour to provide as much of the best information as you can on that subject. An enterprising newspaper or magazine editor always takes care to place before his readers the particulars which are necessary for them to understand the course of events, precisely when required. The librarian can do the same, and, in doing it, gives his

borrowers this advantage: he indicates sources of information which are certainly fuller, and very probably more reliable than those given in periodicals.

Assuming the lists to be up-to-date, the next essential to ensure helpfulness and intelligibility is such clear and pithy annotating as will convey the peculiar value of each item. It would be useless to set down all the points to be insisted upon, but a few are given.

- (1) The writer's argument.
- (2) The scope of the work.
- (3) The value of the matter, if possible.
- (4) The presence of illustrations, maps, plans, &c., of especial value, bearing on the subject dealt with.
- (5) The method pursued, or the author's plan, if he makes a point of it.
- (6) The qualifications of the author, if special.
- (7) The connection of any item of material with the list which is not clear.

And so forth.

Annotations descriptive of the author's argument may very often be given in his own words, and the same course may be followed with respect to a note on the scope, or point of view of the writer, *e.g.*:— For an attempt "to connect the study of Shakspeare's works with an inquiry after the personality of the writer, and to observe as far as possible the growth of his intellect and character," see Dowden's "Shakspeare: a Critical Study of his Mind and Art." Such a note is important, because the book is "by virtue of its scope, most intimately concerned with the historical plays and the tragedies, and especially with the elements in them which help to reveal the personality of their author."

The value of the matter must only be given in the words of an authority; on no account should the valuation be made by the compiler. If a critical note cannot be found it is far better to do without than have one made by the librarian; for the "critical sense" does not, I imagine, exist in many librarians. Of course, no great amount of time should be spent in the search for such *critiques*. Very often, however, good ones can be found with little trouble, *e.g.*:—

"Jeaffreson's 'The Real Shelley' is controversial in method and decidedly hostile in tendency. It contains, however, an ample share of solid information and sharp disquisition."—*W. M. Rossetti*.

It is not necessary to dwell upon the advisability of noting the presence of maps, illustrations, and valuable appendices. To give the qualifications of the writer is also very requisite. For instance, any work on design which the borrower knows to have been written by an instructor of the Science and Art Department is likely to prove more attractive to him than if he were ignorant of this fact. Similarly the value of a work on army ordnance, let us say, is increased if we know that the author is a high official connected with the Ordnance Department.

These remarks on annotation are necessarily brief. The point is one which must be dealt with thoroughly in connection with annotated catalogues, and no enlargement on it would have been made if it were not for the fact that annotation is absolutely indispensable in a reading list, whereas in a catalogue it can only be said to be desirable, and, at the most, should not be indulged in to so large an extent as in lists.

With regard to the arrangement of the material little need be said. Headings must, of course, be chosen to suit each list. The references should not, however, be arranged in alphabetical order under these headings; such a disposition is purely arbitrary, and, in short lists, in no way helpful. The most valuable works should be arranged foremost under the headings to which they belong. A certain coherency is also given by placing together with a connecting annotation all the articles and books on a particular phase of the topic treated which are not important enough to merit a separate heading.

In the compilation of reading lists much depends on the circumstances in which the library is placed, but a few hints on practice which has been found to answer may not be out of place. In the first instance some amount of preparation is necessary. A haphazard search may be made in the places where the compiler imagines information may be found, and a presentable list may be the result. But what is worth doing at all is worth doing well; and a small amount of time spent in preliminaries for organised searches saves much time in the end. Of course you must have at hand *Poole's* and the *Review of Reviews'* indexes, the index to *The Times*, and the like. It is assumed (and hoped) that every library has a complete index of its contents. Subsidiary indexes are, however, essential. Most important to have is a card-list of all the bound magazines and periodicals in the library, with one card devoted to each volume. It must be kept up-to-date. If any volumes of the magazines are withdrawn from circulation, the index card should be abstracted. Even if they are withdrawn for rebinding the card must not be allowed to remain in its place, as they may not be returned before all interest in the subject of the lists has abated. In this way you are saved the trouble of noting material which is afterwards found to be unavailable. Then bibliographies and lists of authorities which are often met with in books ought to be indexed. This would cause but little trouble. Books are always catalogued (or should be) before they are circulated; and, when a good list of authorities is found, it is an easy matter to have it indexed. Such an index, moreover, is always of use in a reference library.

The collection of material may be made a small matter or the cause of considerable hindrance to the progress of other business which has to be done. To minimise the work rules should be devised for the collection and writing up of the material. Let the heads under which it is intended to group the entries be given to a junior who understands these rules, and he will speedily have the material noted on slips, with all the particulars required, excepting, of course, the annotations. The senior, whose time is always valuable, is then relieved of the drudgery of the work, and it is not a lengthy business for him

to examine and value the references by rejecting all that are worthless or quite unimportant, and annotating what are left.*

It only remains then to type or print the lists. Very few libraries can afford to print them. It is really not necessary, and, on account of the expense, undesirable for many libraries to do so. If type-written and posted up in the library they answer their purpose quite as well as printed lists. Better still: the librarian can often induce the local papers to insert a selection of the material collected on the most important topics.

It may be objected that it is futile to go to these pains to supplement current information when readers can find what they want for themselves in the catalogues. To this one can but reply that a catalogue is only thoroughly understood by the man who made it; that the best catalogue in existence cannot unearth for the reader all the valuable material lying buried in periodicals and volumes of essays. What, then, can we expect from the majority of the catalogues published in this poverty-stricken library world of ours? If readers find that they have to toil through our catalogues and the indexes to the hidden material, or bother the library assistants, they do not attempt the task: some very valuable matter is practically non-existent for them, and the library has failed in its function.

The best examples of what I may call the reading-list *style* which have come under my notice are the *Monthly Reference Lists* issued by the Providence Public Library. The style, however, is the only part to which I am able to adhere wholly. Other topics than those of the moment are treated, and, in my opinion, it is only in connection with current subjects that the reading list can be regarded as sufficiently useful to warrant its existence. Further, criticisms by the compiler are given. There are many other good examples which have not appeared in print, but the reading list has certainly not been generally recognised as an important feature of library work. There is no doubt that it finds more favour than formerly, and for it, systematically carried out, a very useful future may be predicted.

*It is a regrettable fact that the division of labour principle is applied very little to Public Library work. Many jobs are almost wholly done by seniors in libraries because those are particular parts which juniors cannot satisfactorily accomplish. For instance, it has never been clear to me why juniors, who write a plain hand, cannot be entrusted with the cataloguing of books, if instructions are drawn up, and signs, indicative of the form which the catalogue entry is to take, marked on the title pages. The work can be corrected, additions, and, if such is the practice, annotations made by seniors. In a great many libraries seniors are so occupied with writing up simple matter, stocking and shelf registering that they can give little or no time to the supervision of those departments in touch with the public. The consequence is, good internal administration no doubt, but inefficiency in the only parts of the work of which the public have an opportunity of judging.

ST. GEORGE-THE-MARTYR PUBLIC LIBRARY, LONDON.

o o o

THIS Library, one of the latest of the large group rapidly covering South London, lies in the centre of the busy district vaguely described by Cockneys as "nigh the 'Elephant,'" or, in other words, close to the famous old tavern and 'bus station called the "Elephant and Castle." Very few Londoners know much about the network of parishes which form the district of Southwark, but when, in November, they are all absorbed by the new borough of Southwark, the boundaries will become less puzzling.



MR. THOMAS ALDRED

The St. George-the-Martyr Library originated in an offer made by Mr. Passmore Edwards to erect a suitable building for a Public Library provided the ratepayers adopted the Libraries' Acts. This was done in March, 1896, and, after securing a site in the Borough Road—which was profitably converted into a stand for viewing the Jubilee Procession of 1897—the committee invited Mr. Passmore Edwards to lay the foundation stone on December 2nd, 1897. On February 8th, 1899, the building was opened by the Right Hon. James Bryce, F.R.S., M.P., and since then the library has been very successful in every respect.

The building, which was designed by Mr. A. Blomfield Jackson, stands some twenty feet back from the pavement in the Borough Road, and the space thus available is turfed. The arrangement greatly enhances the architectural effect, and also removes the reading rooms further from the noise of the passing traffic.

The basement extends over the whole area of the building, and is very well lighted. Here are the heating chamber and the coal cellars; the rest of the space is available for the storage of books, and for repairs, unpacking, &c.

The ground floor is placed about three feet above the level of the pavement. On entering, one reaches the Ladies' Room on the right and the News Room on the left, the public portions of the Lending Library being immediately in front. The Boys' Room has a door opening into the News Room, but the usual means of access is through the public space in the Lending Library, thus enabling the staff to have full control over those who use the room. The Public Rooms are all under the direct supervision of the staff in the Lending Library, as is also the Entrance Hall.

On the first floor is the Reference Library and Magazine Room with Book Store attached. A spiral staircase from the Book Store communicates with the Lending Library and basement below. This enables the staff to reach one department from another with great facility. Adjoining the Reference Library is the Committee Room.

There is an entrance for the librarian's staff, and also a separate entrance to the librarian's residence, which comprises:—drawing room, dining room and three bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen, scullery, &c.

The exterior facings of the walls are of red brick, with terra cotta dressings, cornices, mouldings and enrichments, the roof being covered with slates. As will be seen by our illustration, the general effect of the building is rather good.

Mr. Aldred, the Librarian, has not gone in for any startling novelties in the way of administration, but has followed lines which have been pronounced safe by librarians of experience. He has, however, abandoned the indicator, save as a simple device for showing the ins and outs of novels, and rather identifies himself with the younger and more progressive school of librarians, by adopting a close classification. The stock is well selected, and has been catalogued by Mr. Aldred in a volume which was reviewed sometime ago in these

columns. The number of volumes is about 8,000, but this total will be largely increased as funds are forthcoming.

Mr. Aldred was born at Manchester, on May 18th, 1866, and, when quite young, was taken to Moscow, in Russia, by his parents, his father having received an appointment there. He was educated chiefly in the Chetham Collegiate School, Manchester, and Manchester Commercial Schools. In 1871, after a brief experience in a commercial house, he was appointed an assistant in the Salford Public Libraries where he remained for seven-and-a-half years. He received the appointment of first librarian of Stalybridge Public Library in 1889, and held it till his transference to Barrow-in-Furness, in 1891, as chief librarian, in succession to Mr. John Frowde. This post he occupied till June, 1898, when he obtained his present appointment at St. George-the-Martyr. Mr. Aldred is well known to readers of the *Library World* as a contributor on practical subjects. He is an enthusiastic advocate of music in Public Libraries, and did much at Stalybridge to foster this department, while his pen has not been idle in the same cause. Among his inventions may be mentioned indicators, devices for securing periodicals in their cases, and other useful items.



ST. GEORGE-THE-MARTYR PUBLIC LIBRARY

THE OPEN ACCESS QUESTION.

o o o

WE have received a pamphlet entitled "Open Access in Public Libraries Exposed, being a reply to Mr. H. Keatley Moore's paper in *The Library*, by Edward Foskett, F.R.S.L., &c." of Camberwell, which purports to be an article declined by the Editor of *The Library*, seemingly because it referred to "specific libraries" in terms which were evidently considered unsuitable. In accordance with our invariable practice of giving all sides a hearing, we print below such of Mr. Foskett's arguments as are directed against the Open Access system and not against its exponents. While doing this, we desire to express our regret that the discussion of this question should degenerate so frequently into unnecessary personalities which have nothing whatever to do with the matter. While Americans and Colonials can discuss this question fairly and calmly, it seems almost impossible to mention the subject in this country without instantly raising a clamour in all directions. All this is very pitiful, and in the interests of fair play we plead for more toleration in the consideration of this question, which is, so far as we know, the only subject in connection with library management which has stirred up bitter controversy. We hail, as a promising sign of reform in this respect, the moderate and able articles by Messrs. Moore and Doubleday, representing opposite sides of the question, which appeared in *The Library* for December and March last.

Mr. Foskett's chief arguments against Open Access as a Library System are as follows:—

"We are told 'There is not much misplacement on the shelves.' The difficulty of the inexperienced, in replacing books where they should go, is indisputable. The vague assertion, affecting the irresponsible public, is contrary to my personal observation in Open Access libraries. On one occasion I noted five persons who misplaced eleven volumes, seven of which were put on wrong shelves. To the rather substantial contention that 'constant handling of books will prematurely wear them out,' we get the elegantly unanswerable dictum that it is 'a sheer hollow turnip of a bogey.' This is a good specimen of academic argument from an Open Access environment. Those experienced in the handling of books know the importance of how, and how not to do it. We sometimes speak thoughtlessly of the 'life' of books. Yet most librarians cannot look upon them as mere chattels of commerce; but, with an Assisi-like interest in their existence, feel that useless wear and reckless tear are as insults and wrong-doing to friends who deserve affectionate greeting. 'Hollow turnip' missiles cannot alter the fact that extra handling entails extra wear; and, that the kind of handling is a potent factor in producing effects which cannot be gauged, measured, or tabulated.

Further, we are assured that 'borrowers do not block the shelves,' and 'rarely remain long at them.' The latter statement I, in the main,

confirm; and add, from positive knowledge, that many would not go to the shelves if other opportunities of getting books were afforded them. A large number of volumes can be, and are, ruthlessly handled in a comparatively short time. The book-stacks tower above the heads of seekers, and the volumes range from above to within a foot from the floor. If the appreciation of Open Access were evidenced by a considerable number of discriminating or interested seekers to that extent the popular books would be blocked by the drapery and stature of each person covering the shelves. The nuisance and inconvenience prevail, and modification only comes as the pseudo-privilege is practically repudiated by those for whom it was nominally set up. But the disadvantage of going direct to the shelves is realised by many as on a par with the loss in time and selection which would accrue by going to a draper's shop where the assistants looked on while the customers, wanting varied shades, qualities, and sizes, searched the ribbon and glove boxes for themselves. Some idle time-killers might tolerate it, shop-lifters would like it, and a few monomaniacs might browse in inane contentment; but it would not pay as a boon for the greatest number. From a reader's point of view it is the librarian's 'I dont-know-help-yourself-and-don't-bother-me' system.

The librarian, with his catalogue and other literary aids, is not wanted in Open Access; his avocation could be better performed by a detective. It is bibliopegy which is important—it is the bookbinder who is the real educator. His literary achievements in types and titles are all-sufficient. 'How easy' we are told, 'it then becomes to select a suitable book.' The gradual wearing out of the lettering to an almost invisible dimness, the idiosyncrasies of the classification ('Dewey's or some other') the long-sighted, short-sighted, weak-sighted seekers—all these 'trifles light as air' are to Mr. Moore confirmation of the inspiring vista which such chaos gives to borrowers who 'seldom stay long at the shelves'; but who yet get an illuminative insight into the sciences, philosophies, and all the 'ologies by the vision of pigskin and publishers' cases.

It would be a waste of time to analyse Mr. Moore's painfully-laboured effort to minimise the great extra space in widening the shelf-ways and lowering the shelves, to admit the public direct to them. . . . When we are informed that 'there is scarcely any time lost in rectifying misplacements,' no test of accuracy can be applied. Its vague value must pass for what it seems worth. . . . The measurement-run of the shelves is considerable; so there must surely be some occult influence where Open Access prevails, and unseen hands, perchance, deftly dissipate dust and wave the muddled volumes into serried order. It is possibly correct that Open Access gives the staff less to do—a doubtful advantage; but I fail to see the economical gain, having yet to become acquainted with an Open Access library that is worked with fewer assistants issuing an equal number of books. . . .

As the major portion of borrowers send messengers for their books, plausibly-sounding access to shelves cannot benefit those who know what they want and send for it; or who prefer to turn over the pages of

a not always 'clumsy catalogue' and note their requirements. Although we are told that it is in the 'non-fictional departments' that Open Access is 'all-important,' it is yet a fact that, but for the delusive hope of unsatisfied novel readers, the idea would have been scouted from the first. It appears, then, that with more than a moiety of readers who send for their books, and the fiction-readers whom Mr. Moore depreciates in this connection, there can be but a very small number for whom it could be claimed that Open Access is 'all-important' Of the persons included in the latter number the majority would know the books they desired, and should also be entitled to learn, without delay, whether the book wanted is available at the moment or not. To compel such persons to search for what may be out, lost, stolen, or only misplaced, is a manifest disadvantage and waste of time. To force such borrowers into the vagaries of an Open Access classifier, by tag and bobtail spots of different shapes and colours, is as ludicrous as Mr. Moore's assurance that 'a guilty reader will be haunted by the ghost of that blue triangle which he knows he wilfully left among the scarlet diamonds to save himself a moment's trouble!'. . . .

There are many libraries using an indicator as a mechanical convenience for showing at a glance books 'in' and 'out,' where every conceivable requirement of the ignorant, the student and the general reader is thoughtfully provided. What is claimed as 'the all important' in Open Access is better met in other methods without the innumerable disadvantages of the former. For instance, a reader not knowing precisely what he wants has only to give a hint and all the likely books (except fiction) are actually brought to a table for him, where he can leisurely examine and choose the book for his home reading. *This is access at its best*; a healthy, elevating liberty compared with the license of promiscuous wanderers, who wear out books more by careless handling than by reading. In many well ordered libraries, not only is the fiction reader provided with a concise key-list in alphabetical and numerical sequence, but class-lists on other subjects are similarly focussed for quick reference. These aids, with even a moderately good catalogue, bring the books to the mind's eye under subject, cognate-subject, and author-headings; whereas, the volume itself, with indistinct lettering, can only be in one place—hidden, in Open Access enigmas, where, according to Mr. Moore, there is 'a green spot on a 'red' shelf, or a 'circle among triangles.' . . .

The discursive character of Mr. Moore's eulogium and indictment has necessarily shaped the tenor of this reply. The comments have been restricted to the libraries he particularised, with brief incidental references to different systems. The objections that have been raised to Open Access may not be, separately, vital; but, as a whole, they cut at the very root of it, because what is claimed as 'all important' is better provided for by other methods. The losses, bad as they are, might be justified if there were compensations in other directions. It has been said that libraries which have tried and discarded Open Access, like Chester, Penge, Blackburn, &c., did not adopt safeguards.

That is not correct: and it comes with bad grace from those who put on their first banner, 'Trust the people!' This has been painted out and 'safeguarded access' emblazoned thereon; while we are assured that vigilant-eyed attendants watch every person at the shelves. Though losses may thus be reduced, it is analogous to the diminution of thefts which would be secured if every pickpocket in London was shadowed by a detective."



THE LIBRARY STAFF.



THIS DEPARTMENT *is conducted for the special, but not exclusive, benefit of the earnest and studious Library Assistant, who is determined to make his or her way in the profession of Librarianship. An effort will be made to cover in a gradual and complete manner, the whole of the ground occupied by the technical side of the craft, and to enable this to be thoroughly done, brief practical notes of any kind are solicited from assistants or librarians in any sort of library. Ethical disquisitions on deportment and disagreeable controversial notes are not wanted. Every assistant should make a point of sending at least one note annually bearing on the daily routine work of a library. Nothing is too trivial or trite to be thoroughly discussed.*

EDITED BY A LANCASHIRE LIBRARIAN.

Open Shelves in Reference Libraries. THE somewhat recent institution in many well-appointed libraries of the "open shelf," or "table," where directories, gazetteers, dictionaries, encyclopædias, and all the various, miscellaneous annuals (which the general public knows nothing about) are put, is reckoned by many readers to whom I have spoken on the subject, to be one of the best things yet done in the way of popularising and demonstrating the usefulness of reference libraries. That the "open shelf" in this direction *is* a boon there is no denying. It only requires one to reflect on the number of times "Who's Who" and similar valuable books of reference were issued in a week under the old regime of catalogues and readers' tickets, and compare them with the references made to the same work now. I think, nay, I am sure I am considerably within the mark when I say that the use now made of the majority of the works on the open shelves is four times greater than in days past. And this is the only reasonable result that could be expected, for it must be remembered that formerly, with the exception of a few, the resources of the library were only known to those behind the scenes.

SELECT LISTS OF BOOKS ON SPECIAL SUBJECTS.

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PRACTICAL AND HISTORICAL PRINTING.

By H. G. T. CANNONS, *Sub-Librarian, Clerkenwell Public Library.*
(Continued from page 244).

LITHOGRAPHY & CHROMO-LITHOGRAPHY.

- Audsley (G. A.) *Chromo-Lithography: a popular treatise.* 44 plates. Folio-63s. Low.
- Earhart (J. F.) *The Colour Printer.* £2 2s. Raithby, Lawrence.
[The only publication for Printers dealing adequately with the subject.]
- *The Harmoniser: Shows a great variety of harmonious effects produced by printing coloured inks on coloured papers.* 8° 18s. 6d. Raithby, Lawrence.
[Invaluable to Printers using tinted or coloured stock.]
- Harland (J. W.) *Printing Arts: Relations of engraving, lithography and printing in colours.* 8° *Ill.* 1892. 2s. 6d. Ward & Lock.
- Marioni (F.) *Album Litografico,* 4° 1cs. Raithby, Lawrence.
Thoroughly typical of the modern Italian School, includes ideas and suggestions for every design.
- Pennell (Joseph and Elizabeth). *Lithography and Lithographers: some chapters in the history of the art, with technical remarks and suggestions.* 4° 1898. *Ill.* £3 13s. 6d. Unwin.
- Richmond (W. D.) *Grammar of Lithography: a practical guide for the Artist and Printer in commercial and artistic lithography.* 8° *Ill.* 1892. 5s. Menken.
[Wyman's Technical Series.]
- *Colour and Colour Printing as applied to Lithography.* 8° 1892. 5s. Menken.
- Straker (C.) *Instructions in Lithography.* 8° 1890. 6s. 6d. Winstone.

STEREOTYPING & ELECTROTYPING.

- Bolas (Thomas). *Stereotyping.* 8° 1890. Society of Arts.
- Urquhart (J. W.) *Electrotyping, reproduction and multiplication of printing surfaces and works of art by the electro-deposition of metals.* 1881.
- Wilson (F. T. F.) *Stereotyping and Electrotyping: a guide for the production of plates by the papier-maché and plaster processes.* 5th edition. 8° 1880. 5s. Menken.
[Wyman's Technical Series.]

ZINCOGRAPHY.

- Bock (Joseph). *Zincography: Practical guide to the art as practised in connection with letterpress printing.* 5th edition. 8° 1896. 2s. 6d. Menken.
[Wyman's Technical Series.]

BOOK ILLUSTRATION.

- Blackburn (H.) *Art of Book and Newspaper Illustration.* 8° 1893. 1s. Society of Arts.
- *Art of Illustration.* 8° 1894. 7s. 6d. Allen.
[On drawing for "Process."]
- Carr (T. Comyns). *Book Illustration, old and new.* 8° 1882. 1s. Society of Arts.
- Crane (W.) *Decoration and Illustration of Books.* 8° 1890. 1s. Society of Arts.
[Historical and Theoretical.]
- *Of the Decorative Illustration of Books old and new.* 8° 1896. 12s. 6d. Bell.
[Ex-Libris Series.]

- Day (L. F.) Alphabets Old and New : a book for designers. 8° 1899. 3s. 6d. Batsford.
- Harper (C. G.) Practical Handbook of Drawing for Modern Methods of Reproduction. 8° 1894. 7s. 6d. Chapman.
- Hinton (A. H.) Handbook of Illustration, with Reproductions from Photograms and Sketches by a variety of Processes. 8° 3s. Dawbarn & Ward.
- Hodson (J. S.) Art Illustration for Books and Newspapers. 8° 15s. Low.
- Jacobi (C. T.) A Few Suggestions of Plain Letterings for Artists and others. 8° 1899. Chiswick Press.
- Pennell (Joseph) Illustration of Books : a manual for the use of students. 8° 1898. 2s. 6d. Unwin.
- Modern Book Illustration. 8° 1895. 10s. 6d. Bell.
[Ex-Libris Series.]
- Pollard (A. J.) Early Illustrated Books.
[History of the decoration and illustration of books in the XV. and XVI. Centuries.]

PROCESS WORK.

- Anderson (M.) Photo-Mechanical Processes and Guide to Colour Work. £1. Penrose & Co.
- Burton (W. K.) Photo-Mechanical Processes. 4s. Penrose & Co.
- Denison (H.) Treatise on Photogravure. 8° 4s. 6d. Penrose & Co.
- Farquhar (H. D.) Grammar of Photo-Engraving. 8° 2s. 9d. Dawbarn & Ward.
[Recommended as closely descriptive of the art.]
- Fritz (George). Photo-Lithography. 8° 3s. 6d. Dawbarn & Ward.
- Cronenberg (W.) Half-Tone on the American Basis. 8° 3rd edition. 1899. 2s. Percy Lund & Co.
- Richmond (W. D.) Grammar of Lithography. 8° 5s. Penrose & Co.
- Schnauss (J.) Collotype and Photo-Lithography, with an appendix on steam presses. 8° 1889. 5s. Iliffe & Son.
- Robinson (H. P.) Picture-making by Photography. 1889. 2nd edition. 8° Hazell, Watson & Viney.
- Schraubstadler (Carl). Photo Engraving. \$3.
- Verfasser (Julius). Half-Tone Processes : A practical manual of Photo-Engraving in Half-Tone on Zinc and Copper. 8° 3rd edition 1899. 2s. Percy Lund & Co.
- Waterhouse (J.) Preparation of Drawings for Photographic Reproduction. 8° 1890.
[Photo-Mechanical printing processes]
- Whittet (R.) Half-Tone by the Enamel Processes. 8° 50 cents. Penrose & Co.
- Wilkinson (W. T.) Photo-Mechanical Processes, Photo-Zincography, Photo-Lithography and Collotype. 2nd edition. 1899. 5s.
- Zander (C. G.) Photo-Trichromatic Printing, in theory and practice. 8° 2s. 6d.
[Standard work on three-colour printing.]

MACHINES.

- Southward (J.) Printing Machines and Machine Printing, the principle and practice. 8° 1891. 5s. Menken & Co.
- Southward (J.) and F. J. F. Wilson. Principles and Progress of Printing Machinery. 8° 1887. 5s. Menken & Co.
[Wyman's Technical Series.]
- Wilson (F. J. F.) and D. Grey. Practical Treatise on Modern Printing Machinery and Printing. 8° *Ill.* 1889. 21s. Cassell & Co.
- How to Start a Printing Office, with hints on the purchase and selection of plant and material. 8° 9d. Raithby, Lawrence.

TYPE FOUNDING.

- De Vinne (Theodore). Historic Printing Types. 8° 1887. New York.
- Reed (T. B.) History of Old English Letter Foundries. *Ill.* 4° 1888. 31s 6d. Stock.
[With notes on the rise and progress of English typography.]

PAPER MAKING.

- Clapperton (G.) Practical Paper Making : a manual for paper-makers, owners and managers of paper-mills. 8° 1898. 5s. Lockwood.
- Cross (C. F.) and E. J. Bevan. Text-Book of Paper Making. 8° 1899. 7s. 6d. Spon.
- Davis (C. T.) Manufacture of Paper : being a description of the various processes for the fabrication. 8° 1897. 28s. Low.
- Dunbar (James). Practical Paper Maker, a complete guide to the manufacture of Paper. 18° 1897. 3s. Spon.
- Herring (Richard). Paper and Paper Making Ancient and Modern. London. 1856.
- Hofman (C.) Treatise on Paper Making, with plates and engravings. 8° 1897. 5s. Low.
- Parkinson (Richard). Treatise on Paper for Printers and Stationers, with an outline of Paper Manufacture ; complete table of sizes and specimens of different kinds of paper. 8° 1898. 3s. 6d. Lockwood.
- Routledge (Thomas) Bamboo Considered as a Paper Making Material, with remarks upon its cultivation and treatment. 8° 1897. 2s. Spon.
- Watt (Alexander). Art of Paper Making ; a practical handbook. 8° *Ill.* 1898. 7s. 6d. Lockwood.
- [Standard work on the subject.]



A SHORT LIST OF SOME STANDARD MILITARY WORKS OF REFERENCE,

By MAURICE J. D. COCKLE.

THE following works are suggested as a nucleus for the formation of an English military section in our Public Libraries. That the selection of representative works from so extensive a literature as that connected with the art of war has been somewhat difficult, goes without saying ; so much having been written within the last twenty years especially on each branch of very even merit. Naturally selection is easier when we go farther back into the century ; such works as Meyrick's and Grose's have been, so far, unapproached. However, it will be found that the list, so far as it goes, is comprehensive, and that the books mentioned in it contain a summary of military knowledge extending over all branches ; Law, Constitutional History, History, Tactics, Strategy, Cavalry, Artillery, Fortification, Topography and Medicine. It could, of course be extended to any length in any direction, according to the circumstances. As a guide to official publications one has only to consult Mr. B. H. Soulsby's "Catalogue of English Official Military Works, published by the British Government." London. 1894. 8° (In progress.)

- Adams (Major C.) Great Campaigns : A Succinct Account of the Principal Military Operations which have taken place in Europe from 1796 to 1870. Edited by Captain C. Cooper King. London and Edinburgh. 1877. 8° W. Blackwood & Sons.
- Carter (Thomas). Medals of the British Army. 3 vols. London. 1861. 8° Groombridge & Sons.
- Charreyon (Lieut.-Col.) On the Employment of Cavalry in Germany during the Campaign of 1866. Translated from the French by Major Siddons Young. U.S.I. Vol. 1., No. 2, pp. 73-84.
- Clark (George T.) Mediæval Military Architecture in England. 2 vols. London, 1884. 8° Wyman & Sons.

- Clarke (Col. Sir G. Sydenham). *Fortification, its Past Achievements, Recent Development, and Future Progress.* London. 1890. 8° John Murray.
- Clausewitz (Genl. Carl von). *On War.* Translated by Col. S. S. Graham. 3 vols. London. 1873. 8° Trübner.
[The translation is considered a bad one.]
- Clery (Maj.-Gen. C. F.) *Minor Tactics.* (Sixth Edition Revised.) London. 1883. 8° Kegan, Paul.
- Clode (Charles M.) *Military Forces of the Crown; their Administration and Government.* 2 vols. London. 1869. 8° John Murray.
- Dalton (Charles). *English Army Lists and Commission Registers, 1661-1714.* Edited by _____ 2 vols. London. 1892-94. 8° Eyre & Spottiswoode.
- Farrow (Edward S.) *Military Encyclopædia; a Dictionary of Military Knowledge.* 3 vols. London. 1885. 4° Published by the author, 104, Regent Street, W.
- Grose (Francis). *Military Antiquities respecting a History of the English Army from the Conquest.* 2 vols. London. 1812. 4°
- Hamley (Col. Sir E. B.) *Operations of War Explained and Illustrated.* London and Edinburgh. 1878. 8° (Fourth Edition.) W. Blackwood & Sons.
- Holley (A. I.) *Treatise on Ordnance and Armor.* London and New York. 1865. 8° Van Nostrand; Trübner & Co.
- Hutchinson (Maj. H. B.) *Military Sketching Made Easy, and Military Maps explained.* Chatham. 1885. 8°
[This is Vol. XXXI. of Gale & Polden's "Military Series."]
- Kraft zu Hohenlohe-Ingelfingen (Prince). *Letters on Artillery.* Translated by Major N. L. Walford. London. 1888. 8° Edward Stanford.
- Kraft zu Hohenlohe-Ingelfingen (Prince). *Letters on Cavalry.* Translated by Major N. L. Walford. London. 1889. 8° Edward Stanford.
- Kraft zu Hohenlohe-Ingelfingen (Prince). *Letters on Infantry.* Translated by Major N. L. Walford. London. 1889. 8° Edward Stanford.
- Longmore (Surgeon-General T.) *Gunshot Injuries; their History, Features, and Treatment.* London. 1877. 8°
- Manual of Military Law.* London. 1899. 8° Official. Stationery Office.
- Maurice (Col. F.) *War.* To which is added *An Essay on Military Literature and a List of Books with Brief Comments.* London. 1891. 8°
Macmillan & Co.—[Works on Campaigns, Expeditions, &c., have been entirely omitted from my list as information concerning some of the most important among such books can be obtained from this valuable treatise.]
- Meyrick (Sir S. R.) *Antient Armour, as it existed in Europe, but particularly in England, from the Norman Conquest to the Reign of King Charles II.* 3 vols. London. 1824. 4° R. Jennings.
- Meyrick (Sir S. R.) *Engraved Illustrations of Ancient Arms and Armour.* Edited by Joseph Skelton. 2 vols. London. 1830. 4°
- Oman (C. W. C.) *A History of the Art of War.* Vol. II. *The Middle Ages from the Fourth to the Fourteenth Century.* London. 1898. 8° Methuen & Co. Price 21s.
[This volume is intended to form the second of a series of four now in progress.]
- Philip (Col. G.) *Text-Book of Fortification, &c.* (Third Edition.) London. 1879. 4° Pardon & Sons.
[To this may be added "Notes on Col. Philips' Text-Book of Field Fortification." by C. F. Fuller, London. 1890. 8°]
- Pratt (Lieut.-Col. S. C.) *Military Law.* (Thirteenth Edition.) London. 1899. 8° Kegan, Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co.
[Originally edited by Maj.-Gen. C. B. Brackenbury, R.A.]
- Richards (Col. W. H.) *Text-Book of Military Topography.* London. 1888. 8° Harrison & Sons.
- Scott (Sir Sibald David.) *The British Army: its Origin, Progress, and Equipment.* 3 vols. London. 1868-80. 8°

LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS.

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We shall be glad to receive items of news for this department from Librarians and others, as to changes in the working or policy of Libraries, appointments, adoptions of the Libraries' Acts, or anything of general interest.

SEVERAL recent articles on **Public Libraries** which have been appearing in certain weekly and monthly journals must raise serious doubts in the mind of the average citizen as to the value of such institutions. That is, if the average citizen is content to accept the sweeping generalities of such articles in perfect faith, instead of relying upon his own observation. Where such writers as "A Working Woman," in *Chambers's Journal*, and in the *Review of the Week* derive the information on which to base their assertions of the general worthlessness of Public Libraries is a mystery. Certainly they do not consult either Greenwood or Ogle, the main authorities, or even *The Library World*. It may be true, as "A Working Woman" states, that the majority of the working classes do not desire intellectual entertainment, and that the chief literary food of the working-class youth is "trashy comic papers"; but what connection these facts or guesses have with the work of Public Libraries is not very apparent. It has become quite fashionable for literary and other journals to print long articles on the decadence of Public Libraries based on the monthly returns of some library published in a local paper, which show that in the lending department more novels were issued than in any other class of literature. The scribes who are responsible for these articles deliberately shut their eyes to the whole of the important educational work carried on by Public Libraries all over the country, *out of the meagre penny rate*, in the shape of reference libraries, news-rooms, juvenile libraries, school libraries, lectures, classes, museums, art galleries, and other features. It does not suit their purpose to notice anything but the fiction issues, which is very much like arguing, as Mr. Greenwood has pointed out (*Year-Book*, 1897, p. 109), "that an hospital spends its whole annual receipts on the provision of beef-tea, and is therefore undeserving of support." The article from which we have just quoted ("The Great Fiction Question") is such a complete answer to dolorous and ill-informed comments of the *Chambers's Journal* order that we beg to draw the attention of librarians more particularly to it.

Reports are to hand from the Sandeman Public Library (Perth), Bristol Museum and Reference Library, and St. Bride Foundation Institute, in all of which progress and success are noted. The last-named is full of illustrations and interesting matter referring to the work of the technical classes in connection with the printing trades.

WE have received an interesting batch of **library magazines** and sectional catalogues, which demonstrate the extraordinary growth of such publications since they were first introduced in England by the Clerkenwell Public Library, in 1894. The *Perth Library and Museum Record: the quarterly magazine of the Sandeman Public Library and Perthshire Natural History Museum*, was published first in October, 1899, and now No. 2, for January, has appeared. The additions are annotated here and there, a most important feature, not always present in similar magazines. There is a capital article on the Morisons of Perth, a publishing firm who issued the *Encyclopedia Perthenses*, 1799-1806, in 23 volumes, a most extraordinary book, considering its period and place of publication. From Kingston-upon-Thames comes *Our New Books: a Quarterly Journal*. No. 1, January, 1900. This is chiefly an annotated list of additions, very well executed and arranged in classes. Mr. Carter says in his preliminary notes with regard to South Africa: "For the convenience of borrowers all works treating of the subject have been placed on a special shelf. Yes, we are aware that there is rarely anything more interesting than the label to be found on that shelf, but disappointed ones are assured that a book does occasionally find its way there." Such intimate, humorous, and withal practical notes, have immense value in drawing the librarian and his readers together. Without being in the least degree flippant, such little notes have more than twice the value of stiff, formal official announcements, dressed in buckram and radiating Jack-in-officeism in every letter. The *Sunderland Library Circular*, No. 5, continues its list of additions, and gives in addition a sketch of Professor G. F. Holmes, D.C.L., another "Sunderland worthy." A title-page and brief, but sufficient author-index to vol 1, is issued with the January and February number of the *Croydon Reader's Index*. The notes are as usual very full, while the foot-notes—previously commented upon in *The Library World*—are growing in number, and, in our opinion, confirm the impression that this method of postponing and scattering information is a positive vexation of the spirit. Vol. III., No. 3, of the *Manchester Public Free Libraries Quarterly Record* gives a good reading list on the Transvaal and a list of some of the more important contents of the Henry Watson musical library, recently presented.

THE Libraries' Committee of the Town Council of **Glasgow** had under consideration a minute of the sub-committee which was specially appointed in December to consider the question of the establishment of district libraries throughout the city. It contained an elaborate report by Mr. F. T. Barrett, Librarian of the Mitchell Library, setting forth a scheme for the establishment in large residential centres of eight branch libraries and three reading rooms. The Libraries' Committee approved of the report and of the scheme, and recommended that it should be submitted to the Town Council for their approval. If they approve of Mr. Barrett's scheme, the Libraries' Committee ask that it may be sent back to them to arrange the order in which the erection

of the branch libraries may be gradually carried out, and also to arrange the necessary details.

Greenock Town Council, on the motion of Provost Black, has resolved with only two dissentients, to establish a Public Library in the town, by adopting the Public Libraries' (Scotland) Acts. It is intended to convert a part of the old post office in Wallace Square into a library, affording space for about 30,000 volumes, with a reading-room for about eighty persons, and a reference library for about twenty-five persons, the estimated cost of alterations being about £1,000.

THE Commissioners of **Penge** Public Library have decided that children under the age of fourteen attending the local schools shall be permitted the use of the lending department, with certain necessary restrictions. The scheme is being heartily supported by the teachers.

THE attention of librarians is drawn to "A Bibliography of English Military Books up to 1642," by Maurice J. D. Cockle, Captain, 4th Batt. Border Regiment, which is being printed at the Chiswick Press for immediate publication. The author has contributed a list of **Military Books** suitable for Public Libraries to our "Select List of Books on Special Subjects" series.

THE Public Libraries' Act has been adopted by the Urban District of **Drumcondra**, near Dublin.

THE Town Council of **Workington** has resolved to pay the Library Rate in future upon the gross rateable value of the borough, instead of the net amount produced by a penny rate.

A NEW branch library is to be opened at Foleshill, **Coventry**, for the North-east ward of the town.

THE second reading of the new **Public Libraries' (Amendment) Bill** has been carried in the House of Lords.

Southampton Public Libraries will in future be opened on Sundays from 3 to 9.

THE **Clerkenwell** Public Library Committee has been instructed by the Vestry to establish a branch library for the Pentonville or North district of the parish.

ON March 15th, the new Public Library building for **Kingstown** Ireland, was opened by Mr. T. W. Robinson, J.P.

MR. ROLAND AUSTIN, late Librarian of Christ Church, Southwark, has been appointed first librarian of **Gloucester** out of a large number of candidates.

THE Public Libraries' Acts have been adopted by the Urban District Council of **Whitchurch**, in Shropshire. A building presented by Mr. Thompson is being adapted for the library.

A DEPARTED LIBRARIAN.

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MR. DAVID DICKINSON, Librarian of the West Bromwich Public Library since March, 1874, died at Bolton on March 8th, at the age of forty-eight. Mr. Dickinson was a native of Bolton, where he was born on June 9th, 1852. He served at the Public Library of his native town under Mr. James Yates (afterwards of Leeds) and the present librarian, Mr. J. K. Waite, and after about eight years' service in Bolton was appointed the first Public Librarian at West Bromwich, twenty-six years ago. He attended the first International Library Conference, and was present at many of the meetings of the Library Association, attending the Manchester meeting last year. Mr. Dickinson took no active part in these annual gatherings, not having contributed a paper or spoken at them. He was, nevertheless, greatly interested in library work and in the meetings of the Association. Mr. Dickinson was the youngest son of a widowed mother, who resides at Bolton, was a devoted son, and a warm-hearted friend. His death is deeply regretted by his large circle of friends. For months past Mr. Dickinson's health had been unsatisfactory. His altered appearance at Manchester was strikingly manifest to those who knew him. On February 26th Mr. Dickinson started on a two months' leave of absence, and he died somewhat unexpectedly, of granulated liver, at the house of his mother, at Bolton; and was interred four days later, at Heaton Cemetery. He was unmarried. I knew Mr. Dickinson from his boyhood, and was sub-librarian at Bolton during the early portion of his servitude there as a junior assistant.—J. P. B.



LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS.

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THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

THE Fifth Monthly Meeting was held at Hanover Square, on Monday, March 12th, when Mr. Herbert Jones, Librarian of the Kensington Public Libraries, opened a discussion on "The Desirability of Concerted Action in Public Libraries, with reference to the collection, arrangement, and cataloguing of local topography." Mr. John Frowde, Librarian of Bermondsey Public Library, occupied the chair, and an interesting discussion resulted from Mr. Jones's remarks. The attendance was rather small.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Statistics with reference to the Third Series of Classes.

There are 41 students attending the classes, of whom 3 are women and 38 men; 38 are from Public Libraries, 2 from private libraries, and 1 is an unattached student. The libraries of London and district are represented as follows:—

Battersea	2	Rotherhithe.....	1
Bermondsey	1	Royal College of Physicians ...	1
Chelsea	1	St. George's, Hanover Square..	8
Clapham	1	St. George's-in-the-East	2
Cripplegate Institute	1	St. Saviour's	1
Hammersmith	1	Shoreditch	3
Hampstead	3	Stoke Newington	1
Imperial Institute	1	Streatham	3
Lambeth	6	Westminster	1
Minet	1	Wimbledon.....	1
		Unattached.....	1

Of the 40 library assistants 22 are senior, and 18 junior: 16 students are attending one class, 23 two classes, 1 three classes, and 1 four classes. The entries for the different classes are:—English Language and Literature (Mr. Doubleday), 26; Subject Cataloguing (Mr. Quinn), 28; Public Library Office work (Mr. Roberts), 8; French Literature (Miss Hentsch), 7.

BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

THE Twenty-third Meeting of this Association was held at Smethwick, on Friday, February 23rd. After visiting the great engineering works of Messrs. Tangyes, they were entertained at tea by the Mayor of Smethwick, and subsequently held their meeting in the Council Chamber; Councillor Guest (Aston Manor) presiding, in the unavoidable absence of Mr. A. Capel Shaw, the president. Mr. G. Gulliman (Smethwick) read an interesting paper on the "History of the Free Library Movement in Smethwick," and was followed by Mr. Hancox (Deritend, Birmingham), who discussed the important subject of "Discarding." He remarked that they often found books on the shelves which had not been used for years. This was particularly the case with what were known as books of the season. An author flashed across the literary horizon, and then vanished. The great cry at the present time was for new works of fiction, and the policy had been to keep the libraries up-to-date in this respect. Many of these books could be done away with, without any great disadvantage to the library. A class of book which he considered was a great nuisance in the lending library was the magazine. Certainly magazines were indispensable in a reference library. He contended that many books which were seldom used should be discarded, to make room for books of deep interest. Mr. Dent deprecated too much zeal in discarding books. Many works which lay on the shelves the greater part of the time contained important matter; even old scientific books, although condemned by the every-day student, contained facts and formulæ not to be found elsewhere. Some, indeed, although old and little used were classics in their way. He could not agree with the writer in his proposal to discard magazines from the lending library. On the whole, discarding, to be beneficial, must be undertaken with great discrimina-

tion. Mr. Elliott thought that in no branch of a librarian's work was sounder judgment required than in that of discarding. It was a great mistake to judge of a book by its present popularity. It was a very difficult thing to say when a book would become popular. He quite agreed as to retaining the standard magazines. They should think twice before they discarded a book. Mr. Chell and others having spoken upon this question, Mr. G. H. Burton, of Oldbury, spoke upon the subject of catalogues, preferring the "class" catalogue to the "dictionary" catalogue. He advocated that details of places of interest, the works of the town, and other particulars should be inserted under different headings in the catalogue. Votes of thanks were accorded to the Mayor for his hospitality, and to the Council for the use of the room.

LIBRARIANS OF THE MERSEY DISTRICT.

THE Meeting of the district was held on 23rd February, 1900, at Oldham. There was a good attendance. Members were received during the afternoon by Mr. Bethell at the Lyceum and Mr. Bateman at the Free Library. After tea, which was served in the Committee Room of the Free Library, the members settled down to business. The minutes of last meeting having been read by Mr. Madeley, the Secretary, and passed, several of the members produced library forms, catalogues, and special lists, among which was a very interesting set of British and Foreign Bulletins exhibited by Mr. Sutton. Mr. Ashton then read a short paper on "School Libraries at Blackburn," which was well received. The discussion was opened by Mr. Sutton, who regretted the failure of his scheme in Manchester owing to the want of enthusiasm among the teachers. Mr. Ashton's scheme, he thought, was one of the best he had heard of, and should recommend itself to librarians for its simpleness and cheapness. Messrs. Hand, Bateman, Guppy, and others, also took part in the discussion. Mr. Guppy, in the course of his remarks, said, he was sorry no juvenile list he had seen contained books in French and German. One of the members suggested that such a list might be compiled by Mr. Guppy, which he promised to do. Mr. Bethell then read a note on the Lyceum, Oldham, with special reference to the Local Collection of Books in the Library, which was well received. The meeting then closed, after proposing a vote of thanks to the Library Committee for their hospitality. The next meeting, at the invitation of Mr. Lancaster, will be held at St. Helens.

SOCIETY OF PUBLIC LIBRARIANS.

A MEETING of this society was held at the Bishopsgate Institute, E.C., on Wednesday evening, February 21st, when a paper entitled "The Political Value of Public Libraries," by Miss I. Mitchell (Elgin Public Library) was read. An interesting discussion followed.

The March Meeting of the Society was held at the Bishopsgate Institute, E.C., on Wednesday, the 14th, when Mr. J. Frowde (Bermondsey) very ably introduced the subject—"Leathers as used in

Binding." Specimens of the different leathers were provided by Mr. Frowde, and a long and interesting discussion followed. There was a good attendance of members.

THE NORTH-WESTERN BRANCH OF THE LIBRARY ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION

has printed its First Annual Report, from which it appears that there are thirty-four members, and that ten meetings were held during 1899. The Association appears to be in a prosperous condition.

THE PSEUDONYMS

THE last meeting discussed the topic of "Mechanics in Librarianship," which was ably introduced by Eothen, and very fully argued. The opinion was unanimously expressed that the machinery of librarianship is best kept in its place as a servant and not elevated into the position of a master. Here are some of the chief points of the discussion:—

1. It is possible to use mechanical aids in such a manner as to leave the mind and time of the librarian free for higher and more important work than devising new ways of licking postage stamps or dusting books. There is also to be considered the enormous saving of labour and time by the use of mechanical aids, which are really scientific in principle and require judgment and knowledge to use in order to attain the highest results. Of such appliances the card method in all its varieties stands easily first, after which can be ranged, in any order desired, every other piece of library machinery or process.

2. The use of good appliances raises the general average of individual skill in library management. The old-time librarian used a broken-bladed tobacco knife to trim his cards or slips, and it may be granted that in certain cases a very high degree of skill could be attained by an expert individual who had such dexterity born in his blood. But the introduction of a special trimming knife which could be operated by anyone without need for any inherent gift of manual skill would raise the average performance of this particular operation of card trimming to a level never before reached, and enable everybody to obtain results as good as the skilful individual with the tobacco knife. Thus it follows that the introduction of properly constructed apparatus will raise the general performance of particular classes of work to a high degree of perfection, and no one need worship such results unless he likes, to the exclusion of more important public duties.

3. It has been said by some great man that all man's work and whatever he does is merely to change the positions of things. He takes a thing from here and places it there. If he writes he merely takes the ink from pot or fountain pen and spreads it with certain design upon paper, be it dictionary catalogue, or annotated class list. We have then in all work we do a vast amount of trivial operations which ultimately result in anything from the smallest action to a *magnum opus*. Now, the workman of olden time laboured at his pole lathe and

attained great skill, but with advancing civilization and population the number of these trivial operations has immensely increased. Complex machinery executes in much shorter time, and with far greater precision, all the work that workmen turned out, and, beyond this, executes operations it would be next to impossible to do by hand. The devising of such machinery itself is no small matter—it is designed to act as a substitute for manual labour in all possible branches, and, as far as possible, as a substitute for that most highly complex structure, the human brain.

4. The indicator is a kind of materialised disease, which affects committees and librarians alike. One man buys an indicator, and forthwith, like the fox in the fable which lost its tail, he becomes a missionary in the interests of the distemper from which he himself suffers, and goes about the country howling his evangel like a dervish. He infects others as he goes along, and soon there is a chorus of unconscious touts shouting aloud, "*Buy* an Indicator," "*Buy* an Indicator," "*You can't* do without an Indicator," till every weak librarian or timidly-ignorant committee is frightened into fits, and forthwith fall victims to the disease, and in their turn become centres of infection.

5. There are other lame devices used in libraries which are neither labour savers, nor do they represent anything but the utter helplessness of their designers. In one library, which shall be nameless, the newspapers are fastened to their stands by means of a piece of picture cord secured at the top by a brass-headed nail, and having attached to the free end a chunk of lead like the sinker of a deep-sea fishing line. This contrivance was regarded as of exquisite ingenuity, and the inventor was quite certain in his own mind that nothing better *could* be devised.

6. I have no objection to mechanism in librarianship, provided it is kept in its proper place as a mere aid, and not paraded as the beginning and end of everything. When library machinery is thrust forward in such a way as to suggest the idea that *it* is the library, and when the opinion is advanced that when a librarian has acquired an indicator, a card catalogue, a pencil sharpener, a desk, and a bottle of ink he has got a full equipment for the proper management of a library, those of us who regard education and intelligence as superior to mere tools have a right to protest. It is this unhappy notion—this unholy fetish—that the purchase of apparatus makes a librarian, which is responsible for a great deal of the Trades Unionism now springing up, like a rank weed, among rule-of-thumb assistants. As mere possession of a musket does not entitle a soldier to call himself a marksman, so the mere purchase of library apparatus does not imply that the purchaser is a born librarian. It would, no doubt, be a very comfortable thing if we could buy our technical knowledge and experience with our indicators and other ready-made systems, but we should then have no objection to offer to candidates for appointments who based their applications on the fact that librarianship was a ready-made article to be purchased in the form of machines which usurped the librarian's function and obviated the need for thought and special training.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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To the Editor of THE LIBRARY WORLD.

"OPEN ACCESS IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES EXPOSED."

SIR—A pamphlet entitled "Open Access in Public Libraries Exposed: being a reply to Mr. H. Keatley Moore's paper in *The Library*. By Edward Foskett, F.R.S.L., etc.," has just been published and sent to librarians, etc., all over the country. I wish to correct certain mis-statements which are made in this tract respecting the Clerkenwell Public Library. On page 6 it is asserted that "A man who lived close to the Clerkenwell Library was convicted at the Old Bailey, and sentenced to three years' penal servitude, for stealing about 200 books from the two or three open access libraries in London. I saw several volumes, with stamp impressions imperfectly obliterated, which evidently belonged to Clerkenwell. I, therefore, suggested that the detective should call at the library. He did so, but unfortunately failed to obtain information or list of losses." This evidently refers to the case of Victor Thomas Brooks who was convicted in 1897, as reported in the newspapers at the time. This man did not live in Clerkenwell; he was never a borrower from the open access lending library; consequently he could not steal books from it. No books were missed from Clerkenwell on this occasion; no detective ever came near this library in connection with this case; none of the librarians who lost books, including Mr. Foskett himself, ever told me that they had noticed Clerkenwell books among those recovered; and I was never asked by the police either to give evidence or to claim the books Mr. Foskett now declares he saw.

On the same page, an attempt is made to show that certain curios were stolen from Clerkenwell as a result of the open access system. The curios in question were stored in a glass show-case in the public reading room, on a different floor from the open access lending department, and the theft was accomplished at night after the library was closed.

On page 12 it is asserted that—"at Croydon and Clerkenwell statistics are inflated by permitting individual members of families each to have a book of fiction in addition to books in any other class of literature." These additional, or "student's" tickets, available for non-fictional works only, were introduced at Clerkenwell in 1893, and there are 359 of such tickets out of a total of 4,174 borrowers. As the open access system was not introduced till 1894, it will be seen that the connection between the two methods is very remote. Mr. Foskett forgets to mention that there are at least 100 other Public Libraries in the country in which such extra tickets are issued, and in several libraries worked by means of indicators *two*, and even *three* additional tickets, are granted to members of families.

On page 15 of Mr. Foskett's pamphlet is printed a letter from one "E. T. S." to one "Dear George," describing open access at Clerkenwell as a failure. This may be a perfectly honest opinion, but, if I am correctly informed, the writer's connection with a member of Mr. Foskett's staff rather detracts from its "illuminative" effect, and impairs its value as a spontaneous and uninspired testimony.

Yours truly,

JAMES D. BROWN, Librarian,
Public Library, Clerkenwell, E.C.

POSTSCRIPT.

As an appendix to my letter I send you herewith the official record of the books recovered by the police from Brooks, which I have obtained from the Commissioner of Police for the City of London, with my own description of the various victimised libraries, which shows that Open Access Lending Libraries did not suffer at all, and that the whole of the statements which have been circulated about this particular case are exaggerated:—

Books stolen and recovered,	Vols.	Nature of Library.
Bishopsgate Institute ...	61 ...	Reference, Open Access.
Cripplegate " ...	10 ...	" "
Poplar Public Library ...	7 ...	" Not Open Access.
Newington " ...	6 ...	" "
West Ham " ...	4 ...	" "
St. Martin's " ...	4 ...	" Open Access.
People's Palace " ...	1 ...	" Not Open Access.
Not claimed ...	4	

97

The four unclaimed books, which I have seen, were evidently not the property of any Public Library, as they are not marked in any way. In addition to the ninety-seven books, 174 prints, or "art pictures," were found in Brooks' possession. This is a very different story from the one anent the stealing of "about 200 books from the two or three Open Access Libraries in London." The Assistant Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis has also stated that books were stolen from the Reference Department of Camberwell, Lambeth (Tate Central), and Stoke Newington Public Libraries, by Brooks, and duly returned to the owners when recovered. Both Police authorities state most emphatically, that no Clerkenwell books were stolen by Brooks or found in his possession.

J. D. B.

To the Editor of THE LIBRARY WORLD.

SIR—As I am informed that Mr. Foskett, of the Camberwell Library, has widely circulated a pamphlet on the Open Access system, in which he states that the pamphlet was originally an article contributed to *The Library*, and rejected by me, I trust you will be good enough to

allow me to say that the article as it now appears in his pamphlet is very different from the MS. I refused to print. Had I printed his article as I received it (and he insisted that if I did print it I should do so without alteration) I should have rendered myself liable to actions for libel on account of the personal attacks it contained.

Since his pamphlet appeared I have received a letter from Mr. Foskett, in which he says:—

“The article you rejected was the one I printed; *only two very slight alterations were made.*”

The italics are mine.

Further comment from me is needless.

J. Y. W. MAC ALISTER.

20, Hanover Square, W.



HOURS OF LIBRARY ASSISTANTS.

It appears that the “Open Door” question is about to be shelved for one equally as needless and certainly more selfish, I refer to what has been called the “Early Closing Movement.” The fight against the “Open Door” was pushed by those who were afraid of an invasion by people in other professions, or those with money and leisure taking up the subjects of the Association’s Classes and carrying off all the prizes. How many “outsiders” took advantage of the classes in London? Now it is the “Early Closing Movement,” to afford the staff time for relaxation and study. Where is the library which overworks its staff? Some time ago we asked assistants to send us a note of the number of hours worked per week. On our receiving no replies we concluded everybody was content, if such is not the case, we again ask assistants to let us have a note. If assistants feel that with their present hours they cannot find the time necessary to prepare themselves for the classes they may be attending, surely they have time to let us know their grievance. “The Lord helps those who help themselves,” which assistants seem to forget. Before assistants can expect librarians to look into the question, they should do something for themselves.



STUDIES IN LIBRARY PRACTICE.

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II.—CLASSIFIED AND ANNOTATED CATALOGUING.

By L. STANLEY JAST, *Chief Librarian, Croydon Public Libraries.**(Continued from page 281.)*

THE IMPRINT.

Order of Items.

93. The imprint items and their order are suggested to be as follows:—

Volumes.
 Illustrations.
 Portraits.
 Diagrams.
 Facsimiles.
 Tables.
 Maps.
 Plans.
 Date.
 Series.

Volumes.

94. Strictly a volume is a part of a work which has its own title-page and usually its own page sequence. Or it may signify whatever is bound together, and may include two or more volumes within the meaning of the former definition. When this is the case indicate it thus, 2v. in 1, meaning two volumes bound as one.

Illustrations, Maps.

95. State the number of illustrations when they do not exceed six. In other cases give the number only when stated on the title-page, as, Tuscan Artists. 31 *il.*

96. Distinguish coloured illustrations thus, *Col. il.* When only part of the illustrations are coloured this should be made evident, thus, *Il. Col. il.* An alternative, and, in my opinion, better form is this, *Il.* (Some *col.*) If the proportion of coloured illustrations is high, say "Many *col.*"; preferably give the number if not more than six, as, *Il.* (3 *col.*) Monochromes ("black and white") are not to be regarded as coloured. Nor are maps with coloured boundary lines.

97. The usual rule about portraits and maps is to notice them only—*i.e.*, apart from illustrations—when distinct from the text. But it is too absolute. If rigorously followed Carlyle's "Essay on the Portraits of John Knox" is marked simply, *Il.*, and though the reader would presumably understand *Por.* it is absurd not to employ the more definite term in this case. When portraits therefore though in text are really important, mark them. As respects maps it is unlikely that any Vol. II., No. 23. May, 1900.

map of value will be mixed up with the text—(or in other words, included in the pagination)—and for them the rule may be interpreted absolutely.

98. Note diagrams only when there are no other (or very few) illustrations, as in, *e.g.*, a mathematical work, or a work like **Mitchell, W. Billiards.** 1 *por. Dia.* But a book whose illustrations merely include diagrams is marked simply, *Il.*

99. Enter, *Mps. and plans.* These terms are employed very loosely on title-pages. The distinction between a map and plan is roughly that a plan is, as it were, a small part of a map magnified.

It is wrong therefore to speak of *maps* of towns as some books do. It is also quite common for a title-page to enumerate maps and plans when there is only one map or one plan, or perhaps maps or plans only. The moral is never to accept a statement on a title-page without investigation.

100. Enter tables only when mentioned on the title-page. If not so mentioned call attention in a note when desirable, as,

Carrington, Edith. Farmer and the Birds.

A special feature are the food tab., giving the food of various B. throughout the year.

101. The following are selected examples of notes to illustrations and maps. They are put in the form of footnotes, because this will usually be the most convenient form. The footnote is comparatively a new importation into cataloguing, and is considered by many a mere piece of eccentricity on my part, though I was not the first to use it. Properly employed, with a definite idea of when they can be used with advantage, when not, footnotes are a most valuable device, as I hope to show in the course of these articles.

Step. Romance of Wild Flowers. *Il.*¹

Sharpe. Chapter on Birds. *Col. il.*²

Moscheles. Fragments of an Autobiography. 3 *por.*³

Regan. Boer and Uitlander. 4 *por.*⁴ 1 *dia.*⁵

Wallace. The Wonderful Century. 1 *por. Dia.*⁶

Diosy. The New Far East. *Il.*⁷ *Mps.*⁸

Beresford. Break-up of China. 2 *col. mps.*⁹

HARDY, THOMAS. **Maodonell.** 1 *por. Mp.*¹⁰

Trevelyan. American Revolution. *Col. mp.*¹¹

¹ Including excellent tinted reproductions of photos of the plants "in their natural habitats, and in some cases under very difficult conditions."

² By Mr. Keulemans, "among the best which the present generation owes to his talented brush."

³ Including Mazzini and Browning from paintings by the author.

⁴ Of Kruger, Rhodes, Jameson, and the author.

⁵ Of the Rand gold output, 1887-93.

⁶ Purely statistical.

⁷ Twelve by a Japanese artist, and a cartoon, "The Yellow Danger," by the German Emperor.

⁸ Of "Russia's Advance in the Far East, 1858-98."

⁹ Very good; one showing the chief navigable waterways.

¹⁰ Of the Wessex of the novels.

¹¹ Of Boston and its environs.

102. Draw attention (in a note) to illustrations in novels only when specially remarkable either because of the artist or from their nature, *e.g.*,

Fielding. History of Tom Jones.

Has ill; by Cruikshank.

Gay. Marie de Mancini.

Introduces Card. de Retz, Mazarin, La Rochefoucault, Turenne. Anne of Austria, and Condé, of whom the v. contains some fine por.

Date.

103. Give date of publication in all cases except novels. But date of original publication of old novels will often be helpful to the reader, as :—

Manning. *Anon.* The Old Chelsea Bun-Shop.

A reprint of a novel first publ. in 1854.

104. Give date of original publication also in the case of an epoch-making book (1). All reprints of works published before 1700 (2), and, when accessible without too much research and at all significant, of many published before 1800, and even in the earlier half of 1800 (3). And, generally, whenever the original date becomes of importance, as *e.g.*, affecting the treatment of the subject (4), or, as being the first work of a famous writer (5). The following are examples :—

(1) **Darwin.** Origin of Species. 1885.

1st ed. 1859.

(2) **Burton.** Anatomy of Melancholy. 1891.

1st ed. 1621.

(3) **Kant.** On Education. 1899.

1st tr. made since its publ. in 1803.

(4) **Romilly.** Public Responsibility and Vote by Ballot. 1886.

In support of secret voting. 1st ed. 1865, *i.e.*, prior to the Ballot Act, which was introduced by Mr. Forster and passed in 1872.

Arnold. Higher Schools and Universities in Germany. 1892.

Applies to 1868 when the 1st ed. was publ.

(5) **Kipling.** Departmental Ditties, and Other Verses. 1898.

1st ed. Departmental Ditties 1886. This was K.'s 1st publ., which gave rise to Sir Wm. Hunter's forecast that "a new literary star of no mean magnitude" was "rising in the East."

105. When a title-page is undated, supply the date when you can, putting in []. In using preface-date state the fact, as :—

Lough. England's Wealth Ireland's Poverty.

Pref. is dated 1896.

106. Give first and last dates of a set the volumes of which are dated differently, as, 1891-7.

Series.

107. Give the series when it indicates a definite subject, or a Society, or other body, as, *English Men of Letters*, *Early English Text Society*, etc. But collections like *Bohn's Libraries*, *The Chandos Classics*, etc., may be disregarded. Use the word *Series* only when part of the title, as, *Cambridge Historical Series*.

108. Print names of series in italics, and abbreviate within the limits of intelligibility, as, *Camb. Hist. Ser.*

109. An imaginary imprint showing the form :—

2v. *Il.* (6 col.) *Por.* 2 *facsim.* *Tab.* *Mps.* and *plans.*

1900. *Textb. of Sci.*

(*To be continued.*)



CYCLE ACCOMMODATION IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

By ARCHIBALD SPARKE, *City Librarian, Carlisle.*

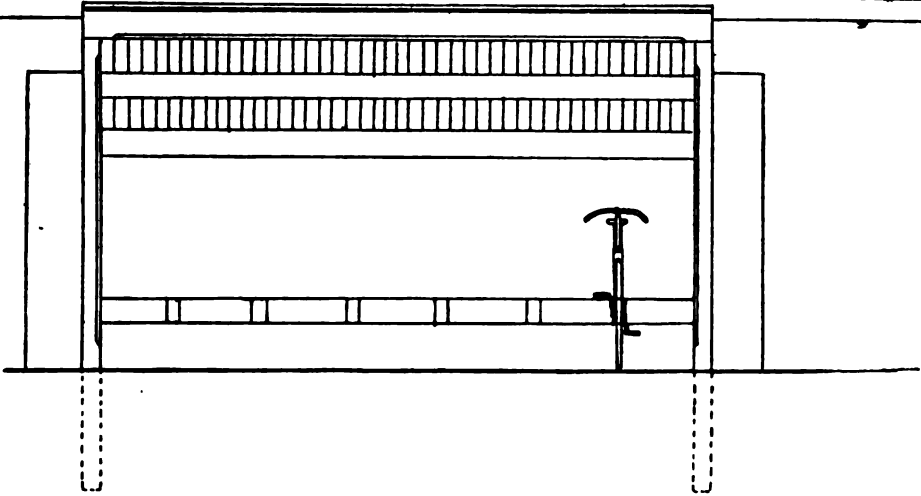
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PUBLIC Libraries, Museums, and Technical Institutes have to find accommodation for all sorts and conditions of men, women, and things, and as some of the borrowers, students, readers, and visitors prefer to cycle to such institutions, &c., and not to walk, library committees and librarians are, or will be, considering the best means of providing adequate accommodation for the storage of cycles. To this end I purpose giving you some idea of what we have provided in Carlisle, at Tullie House, for the convenience of cyclists.

It happens that on one side of our institution we have a large lawn enclosed, consequently, there is plenty of room for the building of a proper cycle stable, and, although there were many little difficulties to think out before orders were given for the construction of a shed, these were overcome, and we have very fair accommodation for the many who come to this building awheel.

A glance at the accompanying illustration will give you some idea of the shape and capacity of the shed, but for the enlightenment of my fellow librarians, I am going to detail the construction and estimate of cost of such a boon to cyclists. Length 13-ft. inside measurement by 7-ft. in height front, by 5-ft. back, and 9-ft. deep. The timber used is $\frac{7}{8}$ match-boarding, with four corner posts $4\frac{1}{2}$ -ins. square, and top, bottom, and middle rails. At the back is fixed a rail 17-ins. high from floor line, to which are screwed six spring cycle clips, the front wheel of the machine is pushed in between the clips, which grip the wheel and hold

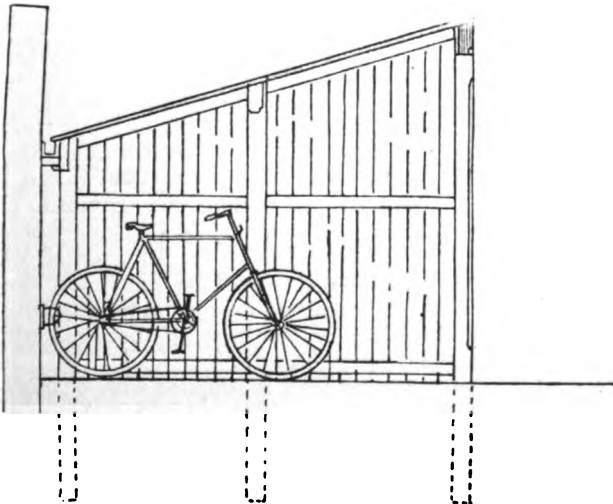
it in an upright position. The floor of the shed is flagged with granite slabs, and the method of lighting is by a bulls-eye electric lamp. The total cost of the accommodation, inclusive of fixing lamp is £10 10s. od.



Elevation

The following notice board will be placed within :—

“Cycles may be stored here by Visitors at Owner’s risk. Cyclists must not mount before reaching the street.”



Section

By the provision of cycle accommodation we do away with the nuisance of having machines propped up against the pedestals of valuable busts, against doors, walls, and staircases, and in entrance halls. No visitors must be allowed to bring a machine inside the building.

Now for those librarians whose library frontage is to the street, who have no hall to speak of, &c., I would suggest the provision of wooden cycle stands which can be seen in the entrance to and standing in the front of the large shops in London and our large cities. These would answer the purpose in many cases, and would, at a very trifling cost, prove a great convenience to the general public, which, I feel sure, they would not be slow to appreciate. In proof of this I need only mention that from all cycling visitors to the Carlisle Public Library can be heard expressions of pleasure that such admirable and suitable accommodation has been provided by the committee for their "iron steeds."



NAVAL LIBRARIES.

By B. CARTER, *Librarian, Kingston-upon-Thames Public Library.*



LIBRARIES are supplied to commissioned ships in the Royal Navy by the Admiralty, and in much the same manner as provisions and other ship's stores.

The books are selected and the libraries arranged in the department of the Director of Victualling, and on board a ship the library is on charge to the Accountant Officer, with the provisions, clothing, &c. To the mere land lubber this may appear somewhat peculiar; but has not someone said something about books being "food for the mind"? The fact is, that in the absence of an Education Department, the Victualling branch is the only one to which books can be appropriately charged. It would be much more incongruous to class them either as Engineer's, Gunner's, Boatswain's, or Carpenter's Stores.

Although the books are selected by the Director of Victualling, he does not purchase them—that would be much too simple for a government department—he demands them from the Stationery Office, and according to the liberality, or otherwise, of the Treasury Grant is all or part of the demand complied with.

Every ship when commissioned is supplied with a *Ship's Library for Officers'* and a *Seamen's Library*. There are three classes of Officers' Libraries:—

- 1st class contains 150 volumes for complements above 400 men;
- 2nd class contains 100 volumes for complements from 200 to 400;
- 3rd class contains 70 volumes for complements under 200.

And there are five classes of Seamen's Libraries :—

- 1st class contains 982 volumes for complements above 600 ;
- 2nd class contains 973 volumes for complements from 400 to 600 ;
- 3rd class contains 753 volumes for complements from 250 to 400 ;
- 4th class contains 593 volumes for complements from 100 to 250 ;
- 5th class contains 443 volumes for complements under 100.

The above figures are taken from the latest printed lists.

The Officers' Libraries consist chiefly of works of history, travel and geography, biography, navigation, astronomy, physiography, with dictionaries of foreign languages, and a few works of general reference. The Seamen's Libraries are similarly constituted, with the addition of poetry and fiction, the latter forming about 65 per cent. of the stock. There is a special provision for officers in what are termed *Station Libraries*, which are small collections of historical and topographical works, treating of the countries covered by the naval station, arranged in sets, each containing about a dozen works. These libraries—which vary in size according to the importance of the station from ten works in one set for the South East Coast of America, to seventy-six in five sets for the Mediterranean station—are permanently attached to the station, not to the ship ; and the practice is for a ship when arriving on her station to procure a set which may be exchanged for another when convenient. As a matter of course there will always be a sufficient number of sets to meet the requirements of every ship employed.

A fairly liberal supply of newspapers, illustrated periodicals, and magazines is sent by mail to ships on foreign stations.

There are no librarians in the navy. Formerly a schoolmaster formed part of the complement of every large ship, and he had charge of the library ; but that practice has been discontinued for quite twenty years, and schoolmasters are now borne only in the training ships. The captain appoints some suitable member of the crew to perform the duties of a librarian, for which there is a small remuneration. Each of the larger ships has a chaplain, and he is charged with a sort of general oversight (as a rough guide, chaplains are not borne in ships having 4th or 5th class libraries). While writing this paper it has occurred to me that it would be a good thing for all concerned if the chaplain would undertake the duties of librarian. He has time to spare for the work, the library would be much more satisfactorily administered, and the performance of the duties would be the means of bringing him into personal contact with the men in a very pleasing and unofficial manner. I respectfully commend this suggestion to the consideration of naval chaplains.

It is not possible within the limits of this paper to critically examine the books or classes of books contained in the libraries. That there is a desire to provide both officers and men with professional text-books is evident ; but little has been done. The officers' books are of too elementary a character for educated men ; and in both libraries, with but few exceptions, the books deal only with the sciences connected with seamanship in its most restricted sense. Gunnery, Torpedo work, Electrical science, Engineering, are either entirely neglected or

represented by one or two unimportant works ; medical officers are unprovided with any kind of professional literature. The collection of fiction is remarkable for its strange omissions : taking a few examples from living authors we find that Doyle, Haggard, Hope, Kipling and Weyman are represented, but not Barrie, Caine, Hardy, Henty, or Meredith.

I have not been able to discover the amount of money spent yearly on the libraries ; but the sum must be a considerable one, and much more satisfactory results should be obtained. In a profession which in all its branches is so highly technical and scientific, its members should be encouraged in every way to improve themselves by study, and this cannot be better done than by providing them with good and suitable text-books. But this cannot be expected under the present system. The organization of the libraries should be in professional hands, and the ship's library managed by a capable and sympathetic acting librarian ; it will never be a living force while it is perfunctorily opened for a very short time once or twice a week, the only intimation being the bo'sun's mate's pipe : "D'ye 'ear there?—the library's open."



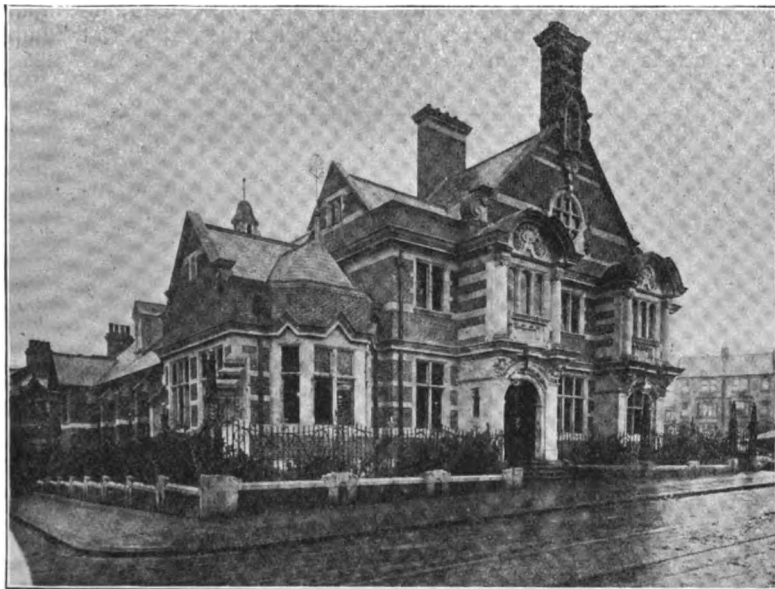
THE PASSMORE EDWARDS PUBLIC LIBRARY, ACTON.

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THE network of Public Libraries gradually encircling the outer ring of the Metropolis, received a handsome addition when Mr. Passmore Edwards presented the fine building shown in our illustration, to the inhabitants of Acton in the county of Middlesex. It was designed by Mr. Maurice B. Adams, F.R.I.B.A., the architect of so many buildings for Mr. Passmore Edwards, and consists of the following public accommodation conveniently placed on the ground floor :—

The imposing entrance surmounted by a panel carved with the name of Mr. Passmore Edwards, opens into a bricklined vestibule, where a handsome marble tablet records the opening ceremony. From thence a spacious central hall communicates with all the public departments of the building. To the left is the reading-room 50-ft. by 30-ft., correspondingly high with a range of windows to the east, as well as dormers rising from the open timbered roof. On the right is situated the lending library having a counter over 30-ft. long with bookstacks beyond and a gallery fitted with shelves to give a total storage for 23,000 volumes. This department occupies an area of 45-ft. by 38-ft., including librarian's office which gives supervision of what may be going on in the building. Adjoining the lending library is the reference room 28-ft.

by 24-ft., so arranged that the officials can work this department quite readily. On the other side of the hall is the magazine room 26-ft. by 21-ft. A lift communicates with the store and other rooms. The librarian's residence occupies the first-floor, and comprises drawing room, three bedrooms, kitchen, and offices, with a house-yard in the basement, and cellar. The private entrance is at the west end of the main front.



ACTON PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The building, the cost of which was in great part defrayed by the munificence of Mr. Passmore Edwards, was opened on January 3rd, 1900, by His Excellency the Hon. Joseph Hodges Choate, Ambassador of the United States of America.

The total cost was about £8,610 and towards this Mr. Passmore Edwards gave £4,000.

Mr. Shuttleworth, the librarian, brought the experience of many years to his work, and organised and catalogued the library in a very short time. In the course of eleven weeks he got together 8,000 volumes, and published a complete dictionary catalogue. Mr. Shuttleworth has organised the library on the usual lines, but has abandoned the indicator in favour of the card charging system. He has adopted the card system for his reference library catalogue, in the form of the adjustable sheaf binders.

Mr. Herbert Archer Shuttleworth was born on 26th August, 1868, at Perry Barr, Staffordshire, and entered the Birmingham Free Libraries as an assistant in 1885. In 1888 he was appointed sub-librarian of the

Deritend branch, and four years later became branch librarian of Harborne, where he organised the library and published the first catalogue. In 1893 he was promoted to the more important post of librarian in charge of the Deritend Library. In 1895 he was appointed librarian of the Rotherhithe Public Library, which he entirely re-organised and re-catalogued, and largely increased its usefulness and popularity. His administrative abilities and devotion to his duties were recognised by the Rotherhithe Vestry, who presented him with an excellent testimonial on his resignation in September, 1899, to take up his duties as first librarian of Acton.



MR. H. A. SHUTTLEWORTH.



DISCURSIVE JOTTINGS ON NOVELS.

By THOMAS ALDRED, *Librarian, St. George-the-Martyr Public Library, London.*

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FROM the ethical standpoint much has been said or written in academic style by men more or less distinguished in various walks of life on the reading of novels, but there is perhaps room for a few random thoughts from a callous and undistinguished observer on side issues hitherto little noticed.

There is no getting away from the fact that notwithstanding the hammering of preachers, authors, teachers, and various educational agencies, the public thirst for fiction in some form or other (not always in the guise of novels) has not been lessened in any appreciable degree. To these forces may be added the library which provides a goodly selection of new and attractive books on subjects which can by no stretch of imagination be classed as fiction ; and still librarians have to record that the percentage of fiction issued is very high.

In all Public Libraries there is a greater demand for "fiction" than can be supplied. As a matter of course, all novels in stock are catalogued, the entries being made in catalogues which for the greater part are compiled on the dictionary system—too well known for description. History, however, tells us that one of the stock arguments—it is not implied that this is the chief one—in favour of this type of catalogue is that it causes the inquirer to turn over many pages, and presumably read many entries, in the search for a novel which from its title is likely to prove interesting reading. It was, or is still, held, that in this process the borrower might be entrapped into selecting some book of more educational character than the much-denounced novel. Thus would be recorded as an issue, a work containing materials for reasoning or remembrance, with the less likely probability of the work being the means of turning the borrower's desultory taste in fictional reading into a channel of serious study, whereby he might become a wiseacre, if he lived long enough.

In the course of time the librarian would be able to report to the governing body that borrowers were reading literature of a more solid and lasting character than formerly, and that this highly satisfactory state of affairs was mainly due to the particular system of administration in vogue, coupled, of course, with the personal zeal of their worthy servant. Or, if the officer himself is too modest to voice his own praise—an uncommon vice in librarians—the member of the governing body who supplies the officer's sartorial outfit, or who goes to the same kirk, or is a member of the same secret or friendly society, or who imbibes refreshment at the same institution (within or without the jurisdiction of the Licensing Acts), could be inspired to seize the opportunity to deliver the necessary eulogy.

In nearly all pursuits the adage "Once bitten, twice shy," holds good. Now, suppose a borrower, who is in the habit of spending the greater portion of week-ends following the more or less heartrending histories of the Edwins and Angelinas of fiction, goes to the library on a Saturday evening, when we may reasonably assume there is a "full house" in the lending department. After waiting some time he at last manages to seize a copy of the catalogue. He wants to read "The Well-beloved," and, on finding the library number of the work, he elbows his way to the front of the indicator. The number he requires is represented OUT. The same result follows his query of a score of other popular novels. The time at his disposal now being exhausted, he, in sheer desperation, selects a book with an alluring title, the call-number of which is not prefixed by the letter F (Fiction). We will assume that the work is Grant Allen's "Falling in Love." The work is indicated as IN. Application for the book is made in the usual manner, and a sharp junior assistant hands him the book, at the same moment making a side remark to an assistant in close proximity: "*Sold again!*" The borrower is now seen hurriedly leaving the library with his literary treasure tucked under his arm, and we trust that he is not over late in keeping his next engagement.

The next day it rains incessantly, and our mutual (or rather common) friend settles down to a day's pleasant reading. With what result? He is soon exceedingly wroth. The book is one in which he does not take the slightest interest. He has nothing else in the house but which is read threadbare, and the neighbourhood, being a respectable one, has all its newspaper shops closed! He feels that he would like to apply some exquisite Chinese torture to the library catalogue, the indicator, and possibly to a few officials thrown in as makeweight. He growls that he had no chance of sampling the book at the library without going through as much formality as is traditional in Government offices. He says that if he goes to a warehouse or shop he is not told by the salesman to go to the second floor to ascertain if the goods he wants are in stock, and then return to the sales department to finish the negotiations. With a still rising temper he asserts that business men do not buy "a pig in a poke," and angrily asks why he should be compelled to put up with such unbusinesslike and uncourteous methods at an establishment paid for and kept up by himself and fellow rate-payers. He also alleges that the titles of most books are but little guide to the nature and quality of their contents, and winds up by saying that a borrower has about as much chance of getting a "good" novel from the *blessed* library as he has in obtaining a prize from a lottery in which he has only one chance. It may be added that, were the borrower in possession of the knowledge that some libraries were efficiently and satisfactorily managed on a widely different system, he would probably have sound and logical remarks to make at the very next public meeting of ratepayers.

Happily there is at present a tendency to give the novel reader less trouble than formerly in the selection of his reading. A key to the indicator is provided in most libraries where fiction is not separately

listed, and many borrowers find it economical in point of time to make their choice of books from those represented IN by the indicator rather than go through the ordinary method, trying to the temper, of trusting to find IN a book which they desire to read.

To pass to another phase of thought suggested by the lending of novels. It may be stated that an inquisitive librarian once ventured to ask a large number of borrowers in what degree they had read the books they returned. The answers obtained might be analysed under the following headings :—(1) Read every line from beginning to end. (2) Read the book, but skipped uninteresting portions. (3) The story was too long to attempt to read. (4) Do not like short stories. (5) The type was either too small or set too solid. (6) The volume was in too dirty a condition to read with any degree of pleasure. (7) Read paragraphs here and there only. (8) Too goody-goody. (9) Thought it was a romance of adventure. (10) Looked too dry to read. (11) Read the finish, and, not finding the wind-up of the story to their taste, lost no time in getting another book. (12) Not enough "go" or incident in the story. (13) Read the book before, but did not make the discovery until the volume was opened at home. (14) It reeked of the smell of bad tobacco or fried fish. (15) Do not like historical stories. (16) Did not like the book—no reasons given. (17) Miscellaneous. The inquisitive librarian, however, declines to give any percentages. Persons sceptical of the statement that large numbers of books *lent* are not *read* must prepare their own figures, and then strenuously deny there is any truth in statistics.

It has been alleged that librarians discourage novel reading. This is not so in a general sense. It is true, a few favour the stock of fiction being restricted to standard authors, but, on the other hand, there are librarians who would buy the veriest twaddle written, if such would tend to increase the annual issues. So far from attempting to curb the reading of fiction, some librarians make entries in their catalogues of novels appearing as serials in magazines, and a few add brief notes, giving a clue to the main topic or period traversed by the story. These notes tend to save many intellectually unproductive journeys of volumes, and also cause a few heart-burnings in the library world when unacknowledged purloining of these notes is indulged in by other librarians.

The only catalogue I know of which makes a special feature of critical notes on novels is that compiled by Mr. E. Baker. This is an excellent piece of work, and well worthy of imitation, for has not the novel reader as much claim to have the books he reads annotated as the devotee of philosophy or science? Much can be said in favour of annotations, but it is observed that some borrowers look upon the gilded literary pills with the same suspicion that lurks in the mind of a boy when tendered a spoonful of black currant jam just before he is sent to bed.

Enlightenment in respect to books, the interest of which depends in some degree on the before or after-reading of other books in sequential order, is often asked for; and, although I have long sought for a

reference list of such, it has not been my good fortune to find one. I have even gone so far as to worry a librarian who is supposed to have read every line of print relating to library administration in all its by-ways, and he informs me that no such list has ever been published. Librarians are but human, and I, like the rest, have actually read novels. From this and other sources I have acquired the knowledge of the order of many that are sequels, but my information on the subject is by no means complete. In the past my comparatively slight knowledge once made me seem somewhat autocratic on the subject, by declining to accept the testimony of persons as to hypothetical sequels. I may cite one case. For years I denied the existence of a sequel to "Monte Cristo," although several persons strongly asserted that there was one. Like my biblical Christian namesake, I was hard to convince, and sadly wanted visible proof. At last a friend, a marine engineer by profession, told me that he had purchased a copy at an American port, and furthermore gave me the name of the continuation. This was a clencher. To put an end to all doubt I made early reference to an American catalogue, and there found an entry of the sequel. Surmising that other librarians are interested in sequels to works of fiction and juvenile literature, I have prepared some notes on the subject which may one day see the light in the pages of *The Library World* or elsewhere.



CLASS LISTS.

By WALTER S. C. RAE, *Public Library, Darwin.*

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LIBRARIANS will be grateful to Mr. Jast for his articles on "Classified and Annotated Cataloguing," which have been appearing for some time in *The Library World*. He has shown how a class list may be compiled which, when the classification of the library and the arrangement of the list itself have been mastered by the borrower, will prove to be a more popular style of catalogue than the old-fashioned dictionary catalogue. "What kind of catalogue is most useful to all?" is a question every librarian should ask himself before beginning to catalogue his library. Most of us are acquainted with the arguments brought forward by the supporters of the Class List against the Dictionary Catalogue. We all know that the dictionary catalogue should give, under the author's name, all the books in the library by that author, but it cannot and does not give, as is claimed by its supporters, a complete list of works on any subject contained in the library. One example will show the truth of my statement. In a recently compiled dictionary catalogue I find under the heading "Astronomy" cross-references to "Comets," "Mars," "Meteoritic hypothesis," "Moon," "Nebulæ," "Planets," "Saturn," "Sun," "Venus."

Dictionary catalogue supporters will at once say that these directions are quite clear and do not necessitate any study of the plan of the catalogue or classification, which to the ordinary public library reader would be a difficult, if not hopeless task.

So much for the librarian's opinion of those who use a public library; but let me ask—"Is it such greenhorns as these who use class-lists of "Science," "Useful Arts," &c., &c.?" Are the borrowers from those sections not as intelligent as many of our librarians, and should they be put off with a meagre alphabetical list?

No doubt the ordinary novel devourer can be satisfied with any kind of list, provided it is a guide to books containing dialogue; but I disagree with Mr. Jast as to the form of such a list. He seems to think that borrowers read authors for some personal reason, and backs up his statement by saying, that he reads authors for the same kind of biographical reason himself. It is just on this point that librarians have made mistakes in the past. They assume that because the biographical or personal element appeals to their professional feelings their borrowers should show the same preference. I contend that the majority of novel readers choose their books by their titles and not the authors. "Author catalogues" says, Mr. Brown, in his *Manual of Library Classification*, "are in themselves of comparatively little value," and what is a Fiction list but an author catalogue of that class? Fiction lists, in my opinion, should contain author as well as title entries in one alphabet, and by providing such a combination, we will assist one half, if not more, of our novel readers.

Librarians would do well to devote more time to the study of this difficult but increasingly important question of Dictionary *versus* Classed Catalogue. A dictionary catalogue is easily consulted and perhaps more easily constructed than any other form, but cannot be satisfactory to the serious reader, because it does not show at a glance or in one place, the full strength of the library on any special subject and its related topics. Borrowers from "Science," "Theology" and the "Useful Arts" classes prefer, like the well-seasoned railway traveller, a guide which shows at a glance all the main stations, branch lines and junctions on the line he is going to travel over. Therefore "Bradshaw" is better for him than the "A B C" guide, referred to by Mr. Quinn in his *Library Cataloguing*, and after all, should it not be the foremost purpose of every librarian to study the needs and cultivate the acquaintance of the serious reader, rather than the mere novel-skirmisher whose rabid craving for fiction is playing such havoc with the reputation of the Public Library? On this ground alone the question is deserving of the most careful attention librarians can bestow.



THE LIBRARY STAFF.

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**Library
Methodology**

30	Patents, British	46	Books Numbered
1	" Foreign	1	Accession
3	" Abridgments	3	Press
32	Photographs	5	Class
34	Engravings	7	Location
36	Music	48	Books Labelled
38	Books for the Blind	1	Book Plate
		3	Date Label
		5	Outside Tags
	ACCESSION.	50	Book Charging Pockets
40	Orders	52	Books Stamped
1	Forms	1	Leaves
3	Books	3	Binding
42	Invoices	54	Books entered in Stock Book
1	Checked	56	" " Shelf Register
3	Entered	58	" " Indicator Book
44	Books Collated	60	" " Book Charging Card
		62	" Covered
		64	" Shelved

Someone has asked the question, "Of what earthly use is this Library Methodology to anyone?" As was explained when it was commenced some time ago, the idea is to provide a workable classification of the processes and methods used in modern libraries. A further use lies in its suggestiveness not only to assistants, but to librarians as well. For example, suppose a librarian is in doubt as to a fresh subject for an article for this column, all he or she has to do is to turn up this Methodology and receive suggestions by the hundred, many of the topics being practically virgin soil. Take "D 22 Examinations for Staff Promotion" as a case in point. Here is a subject which has never been exploited, yet contains material enough for half-a-dozen articles. "The duties of sub-librarian, D 48." have never been expounded, and "E 20, Weeding out obsolete books," a most important subject, has never been adequately dealt with. If the assistant who raised the point as to the value of the Methodology will examine it carefully, he will find a host of valuable hints and suggestions.

Information for readers. THE other day a reader called at our library and asked one of the junior assistants for the address of Mr. W. E. Henley, or a book giving that information. Though this assistant had issued "Who's Who" to readers many times, it never struck him that Mr. Henley's address was to be found there, and we found out that assistants often issue many a book and have no idea of its contents or information. This short paragraph has been written to draw the attention of the younger assistants to books usually overlooked when hunting up information on many subjects. We venture to say that not a few readers have gone from our library disappointed at not

getting some fact verified, which could have been settled if the assistant had known that a book only two yards off could have given the desired information. If assistants would have a look at some of the following books, perhaps they would get an "eye opener," as they would find answers to many questions asked on the tariffs, imports, statistics, populations, revenues, debts, &c., of all countries. We would recommend that assistants should have a careful look at all the directories in their library, they usually contain maps and plans of the towns and cities, and as readers often want to see the plan of a neighbouring town, the assistant starts to look for it in a gazetteer, or a history of the town, forgetting that a map could be got in the directory. Whitaker's Almanac, Hazell's Annual, Statesman's Year Book, Municipal Year Book, Shipping World Year Book, Haydn's Dictionary of Dates, and in fact every annual and almanac which the library contains should be looked at and inspected and remembered. Encyclopædias, Dictionaries, Stead's Index to Periodicals, &c., should not be forgotten.

Stationery. A GOOD idea we think has been adopted in our library. We keep a large folio blank book in which is pasted specimens of the library stationery. Samples of our memorandums, readers' tickets, labels, and in fact everything in that line is pasted in this book, with the vendor's name, the price per quire, per 100 sheets, or, as the case may be, written on each specimen. It is handy when on getting a new supply to examine the samples in the stationery book, and notice if the quality is up to the previous standard or not.

A good Paste. AFTER many experiments we have come to the conclusion that the best paste is made in the following way:—Take half-a-gallon of water, one-and-a-half ounces of alum, dissolve the whole in hot water, and when the fluid is cold add flour to make it about the thickness of cream. Bring to a boil, keeping stirring all the while; but before putting on to boil add a teaspoonful of powdered resin and half-a-dozen cloves, as we find the cloves keep the mice away from the paste.

Mr. JOHN J. Ogle, has vacated the office of Librarian and Curator of the Bootle Free Library and Museum in order to take up the appointment of Director of Technical Instruction in the same district. Mr. C. H. Hunt, sub-librarian, has been appointed librarian and curator in his place. Mr. Ogle has been so long and honorably connected with librarianship in all its higher aspects, that his loss will leave a gap in the ranks of progressive librarians which it will be very hard to fill. We venture to express the hope that Mr. Ogle's departure from active library work, will not lessen his interest in librarianship or withdraw his valuable services from the Library Association.

LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS.

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FROM some statements which are made in our correspondence column and in other quarters, it appears that the **Library Assistant** is still nursing a grievance. This time it is neither hours of work or educational facilities, but the attitude of the *Library World* towards his aspirations. In these circumstances a word as to our position may be appreciated. First and foremost, our sympathies are, and always have been, with the library assistant who means to succeed in his adopted profession, with or without the aid of external agencies. This is the individual who deserves to get on, and he is also that one who progresses steadily, without any tear-stained appeals to the world at large, or sentimental posing as a down-trodden martyr. He may not even be a member of the Library Assistants' Association—very likely he is *not*—but he certainly is the type of assistant who will be most sought after by librarians and their committees, and who ought to be cultivated, and encouraged to perfect himself in his professional work. With most of the objects of the Library Assistants' Association and its branch in the North we have full sympathy, and have shown it on numerous occasions. At the same time we have a perfect right to allow our various contributors to express themselves freely with regard to such questions of policy as "open doors," "hours of work," "library hours," etc., and we believe they have done so in fair and honest terms. Some of our contributors are assistants who represent the very considerable majority of junior librarians who have not joined the Library Assistants' Association, and others are members of that body who do not find themselves in agreement with the small section of London members who affect to speak for library assistants in general. As regards the question of hours of duty, we have repeatedly invited communications from assistants, and certainly had any been received, they should have been treated in a confidential manner. We have been unable to procure any evidence whatever that library assistants are overworked in any large library in the country. Indeed, the facts which have come to our knowledge rather point in the opposite direction, and we are convinced that as compared with assistants engaged in other branches of public work or in business houses, the hours are very favourable indeed. But, again, we invite correspondence from assistants who work more than forty-eight or fifty hours weekly, and we undertake to make no use of such communications which would in any way implicate the senders. If there is a wide-spread hardship arising from long hours, the sooner it is set right the better.

Mr. G. B. Phillips, Librarian of the Carnegie Public Library, Ayr, died on April 16th, after only a week's illness. Mr. Phillips, who was fifty-six years of age, had been librarian of the Carnegie Library since its opening in 1893, prior to which he had been librarian of the Ayr

Public Library. His management of the institution was admirable, and his services were highly appreciated by the Library Committee and the community generally. Mr. Phillips had been long associated with the Ayr Cricket Club. He was a player in the days of the competition for Lord Eglinton's Cup, and latterly he was very popular as an umpire.

THE **Stonehouse** (Devon) District Council have rejected the Public Libraries' Acts by nine to four votes.

THE **Croydon** Public Libraries have been enriched by a handsome donation of valuable books from the executors of Mrs. Henry Crowley, of Thornton Heath.

PERMISSION has been given for the erection in a passage at the Central West Bromwich Library, of a tablet to the memory of the late librarian, Mr. **D. Dickinson**, who had held this office for the long period of twenty-six years.

AT **Launceston**, on April 20th, Mr. J. Fletcher Moulton, Q.C., M.P., performed the interesting ceremony of declaring open to the public yet another of those admirable educational institutions which Mr. Passmore Edwards has erected in nearly every town in Cornwall. The Passmore Edwards Library and Adams Memorial is a handsome building in the main street of Launceston, having a very attractive exterior. The intention of the generous donor of the building was that it should be a permanent memorial to the late Professor J. C. Adams, who was born at Lidcott, in Laneast, about seven miles from Launceston. The cost of the building has been £2,000. Spacious apartments on the ground floor are devoted to the purposes of reading room and reference and lending libraries, while the upper parts of the premises are used as class-rooms for the Science and Art Department.

AT a meeting of the **Carlisle** City Council, summoned for June 12th next, the following resolution will be proposed by the Chairman of the Tullie House Committee: "That this Council hereby adopt the Museums' and Gymnasiums' Act, 1891, and that this Resolution come into force on the 1st day of August, 1900." Part of the incomes of the Libraries and Science and Art Schools have hitherto maintained the Museum; the additional $\frac{1}{4}$ d. rate, about to be proposed, will raise £400 a year, thus relieving the other departments of this burden.

A PROPOSAL to adopt the Public Libraries' (Scotland) Act, for the Parish of **Edderton**, will come before the ratepayers on an early date.

THE **Guildford** Working Men's Institute, which held its annual meeting on April 10th, appears to be in a flourishing condition. It has printed a special list of South African books, and in addition, publishes a quarterly catalogue of additions, compiled by Mr. Frederick H. Elsley, the librarian.

MR. DONALD M'KINLAY, cartwright, has been appointed librarian and curator of the Public Library and Museum of **Campbeltown**, in succession to Mr. John M'Cay, who recently left for South Africa on receiving the appointment of quartermaster in the field hospital connected with the Imperial Yeomanry.

MR. JOHN **Chorton**, of Hyde Public Library, has printed in the *Herald* of March 17th a plea for contributions from the Cheshire County Authorities in aid of the technical sections of the Hyde and other Public Libraries in the county.

IN view of the approaching visit of the Library Association to **Bristol**, Mr. James **Baker**, Sewelle Villa, Goldney Road, Clifton, Bristol, has asked us to announce that he will send, post free, to any member of the Library Association who sends a post card expressing a wish to have it, a copy of "The New Guide to Bristol and Clifton." As Mr. Baker says, the members who usually attend the L. A. Annual Conferences only obtain the local guide on their arrival, and having no time to read it, depart without having acquired that knowledge of the locality which is desirable. The New Guide is an illustrated work extending to 400 pages, with a good map, and members should accept this offer so generously made by a fellow member.

THE **Clerkenwell** Public Library Committee opened a small experimental branch library for the Pentonville district, on April 23rd. We gather from the April number of the *Quarterly Guide*, that arrangements are nearly completed for establishing an open shelf reference department, in which readers will have free access to about 1,000 volumes, without the formality of filling up papers or application forms.

OWING to pressure upon our space we are compelled to hold over till another occasion the information received as to the custody of **Local Records**. Meanwhile, we shall be glad if those librarians who have not yet responded will do so without delay, to enable us to complete the return.

THE **Cuckfield** Urban Council has accepted the Public Hall and Library recently erected and presented to the town, on the understanding that the Public Libraries' Acts will be adopted in due course. The value of the gift is about £3,000.

It is proposed to extend the **Aberdeen** Public Library by means of branches in various outlying parts of the borough, and arrangements are being made with a view to carrying out the proposal.

A SPECIAL Committee of the **Accrington** Public Library has been appointed to visit various other Lancashire towns to inspect the libraries there, before fixing upon the various methods to be adopted.

MR. GUILDFORD **Hodge**, of the Birmingham Public Libraries, has been appointed librarian of West Bromwich Public Library, in succession to the late Mr. David Dickinson.

THE **West Ham** ratepayers have decided against the proposal to increase the Library Rate to 2d. by 9899 votes to 7872, a majority of 2027 against. Other schemes promoted by the Town Council were defeated on the same occasion. Mr. Passmore Edwards came forward and offered to present a library building for the Plaistow district if the Borough would maintain it, but this failure of the ratepayers to vote the necessary income, may deprive West Ham of a valuable gift.

MR. WM. A. **Stobie**, sub-librarian of Croydon Public Libraries, has been appointed first librarian of the Upper Norwood Library, which is supported jointly by Lambeth and Croydon.

THE **Waterford** Public Library which used to be opened on Sunday, will be closed in future on that day.

THE Earlston Hall Branch of the **Wallasay** Public Libraries was recently opened by Principal Dale, of University College Liverpool, in presence of a large gathering of influential residents. Mr. Cadenhead, the librarian, seconded the vote of thanks to the Chairman.

FROM a Portsmouth paper we extract the following:—The appointment of a librarian for the Public Library of **Gosport**, in place of Mr. A. Gray, was made on Saturday. The salary commences at 25s. per week and will be increased to a maximum of 30s. in two years. There was a large number of applicants for the position. At a preliminary sitting the Committee reduced the number to four, and on Saturday the quartette were interviewed by the Committee. Upon a vote being taken, Mr. E. P. Dash, who resigned the position of Councillor to enable him to apply for the position, was selected by thirteen votes to four. Mr. Dash *was formerly a sailmaker in the Dockyard*, and is in business in North Cross Street, Gosport.

THE Corporation of **Glasgow**, by 32 to 25 votes, has resolved to put the Glasgow Library Act in force, and it has been practically decided to adopt the scheme prepared by Mr. Barrett, of the Mitchell Library, for eight branch libraries, five reading rooms, and four delivery stations, involving an initial outlay of nearly £100,000. The scheme will be reconsidered by the Libraries' Committee before it is submitted to the Council.



LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS.

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BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

THE Twenty-fourth Meeting of the Association was held at Wolverhampton, on Friday, March 30th. By the favour of Councillor Hodson (Deputy Chairman of the Free Library Committee) the members were afforded an opportunity of inspecting the splendid private collection formed by that gentleman, at Compton Hall, a collection rich in precious manuscripts, including a Boethius and a Bede of the 11th century, a number of MS. Bibles of the 13th and 14th centuries, a curious English work on Surgery, two interesting MS. copies of Chaucer, and several fine Service Books; also a number of fine early printed books, and a very complete collection of the productions of Mr. William Morris's Kelmscott Press. The members were afterwards entertained at tea by Councillor Hodson, and returned (after a cordial vote of thanks to that gentleman for his kindness,) to the Reference Library, where the meeting was held under the presidency of Mr. A. Capel Shaw (Birmingham).

The first business was to pass a vote of condolence with the relatives of the late Mr. David Dickinson, who had been a member of the Association from its formation.

Mr. G. F. Chell opened a discussion in favour of the Dictionary Catalogue, in which most of the members took part; and the general opinion seemed to be that the Dictionary form was the best for a reference library, but that a broadly classified catalogue was best suited to the requirements of lending library borrowers.

Two notes on library practice were contributed by Mr. J. Elliot (Wolverhampton), the one in reference to the plan of securing the larger periodicals to a sort of four-sided desk with a steep gradient, as most of the magazines and papers are at the Wolverhampton Library, and the other on a means adopted to bring the library under the notice of the inhabitants, by posting to each house a copy of the voucher form.

Respecting the latter, Mr. Capel Shaw thought it would have been better to begin with the young. In Birmingham they acted in concert with the head masters of schools. They had no age limit, and the plan acted admirably in inducing many young people to become borrowers, the signature of the head master or mistress being accepted as guarantors, the School Board accepting the responsibility.

The meeting was in every way an interesting and successful one, and was brought to a close with a vote of thanks to Mr. Elliot for making the arrangements.

SOCIETY OF PUBLIC LIBRARIANS.

A MEETING of this Society was held at the Bishopsgate Institute, E.C., on Wednesday evening, April 11th, when Mr. H. S. Newland (Harlesden), read a paper entitled, "Libraries and Librarians, with brief references to those of the past and future."

THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

THE April Meeting of this Association was held at the Newnes Public Library, Putney. The members were able to inspect, in addition to the Library, many interesting views of old Putney, and a collection of cathedral models. Both the planning and the equipment of the building which Sir George Newnes has given to Putney were greatly admired. In a paper read by Mr. Tweney, the librarian, he pointed out the advisability of librarians taking a frequent survey of the building and the readers, and gave instances of how readers who were searching for important information would have failed to satisfy themselves if the librarian had not boldly inquired for what they were searching. He also drew attention to the unsatisfactory condition of assistants in London suburban libraries. In addition to a considerable number of librarians, there were present Mr. Watts-Dunton, Mr. Mackenzie Bell, and Mr. Davenport Adams. Mr. Watts-Dunton, in the course of a few remarks, stated that he agreed with Mr Jast of Croydon in considering the "Encyclopædia Britannica" to be a very badly edited work. The Chair was occupied by Mr. Redford, Chairman of the Commissioners.

THE PSEUDONYMS.

"BOOK Selection and Rejection" was the subject dealt with at the last meeting of this body, and The Manchester Man opened the discussion in a very able and complete manner. A few of the main heads of the discussion are presented, as usual. It would be impossible to do more than offer a selection, without occupying, at least, two numbers of the *Library World*.

1. Many difficulties lie in the way of selection. Briefly there is
 - (a) The wide conflict of opinion as to what are good books.
 - (b) The enormous annual output.
 - (c) The many different classes of books.
 - (d) The proportions in which they ought to be selected to maintain a due balance of the different subjects represented in the library.
 - (e) The wants, generally speaking, of particular borrowers.

Under the heading (a) we have to consider many points in book selection. Firstly, no little knowledge of books already in the library is required. If we commence by considering the methods of selecting books for a new library the task of selection becomes the most arduous. There is no agreement in the literary world as to which are the best 10, 100, 1000, or 50,000 works, so that it is quite evident that the best list is only the *one least open* to criticism. It may be mentioned that a few years ago a committee of the A.L.A. agreed to sink their personal views in recommending a selection of about 5,000 books suitable for a popular library. The result of their efforts, which were based upon the views of some seventy-five librarians and book specialists, was as follows:—

Biography	635	or 12.1	per cent.
Fiction	809	„ 15.4	„
General works	227	„ 4.3	„
Philosophy	96	„ 1.8	„
Religion	220	„ 4.2	„
Sociology	424	„ 8.1	„
Language	108	„ 2.0	„
Natural Science	355	„ 6.7	„
Useful Arts	268	„ 5.1	„
Fine Arts	225	„ 4.3	„
Literature	694	„ 13.2	„
History	756	„ 14.4	„
Travel	413	„ 7.8	„

Total ... 5,230

2. In our efforts to obtain the best we must solicit the advice of experts and duly appraise it. It is worthy of remark that if such assistance be asked for in a proper manner, specialists, to their great honour, are always very willing to render any aid which lies in their power. But, in selecting from the great number of books available, even the most liberal minded are open to a charge of bias, for it is extremely difficult to keep one's personal opinions in the background. Generally speaking, the more erudite the person the greater is the tendency to cater for dilettantes or to incline to personal predilections. It is to be regretted that many would provide what people *ought* to read, to the inadequate or non-provision of the books they *want* to read. This is the grandmotherly element in the subject of book selection and rejection.

3. To revert to the division (a) of the difficulties of selection we may, undoubtedly, include under this heading what is known as censorship. This is a very open and debateable subject; at the same time it is a delicate and difficult one to treat satisfactorily. To take a puritanical view of excluding everything to which an evil mind might connect lewdness, impurity, or immodesty, would result in the exclusion of most works of imagination and history, many valuable works on sociology, of travel, art, and religion, and, possibly, even the Bible itself. A further danger is the liability to be over zealous in barring any book which may be what we should term "risky." It is difficult to please the many sections of the community on questions of ethics. Some object to any reference to strong drink, others to mention of murders, elopements, or kissing. Were notice taken of all objectors it would result in no books being considered absolutely free from stricture.

4. The value of even a good selection is comparatively small unless the books, especially the contents of them, are made known in some way, for books, like other things, are bought on the principle of extracting the greatest possible use out of them. To the average reader a library without guides may be likened to a traveller in an unknown country without map or sextant. It is eminently desirable

that every library should adopt means which will make readers familiar with the works in stock. This is usually done by catalogues and special reading lists which are, in their way, useful guides to book-land.

5. Weeding out requires more knowledge, forethought, and power of discrimination than is entailed in the selection of books, and much harm might accrue from injudicious discarding. But the scheme should not be rejected on the score of being difficult of execution. There are, however, so many other objections which will be obvious to all that there is no need to further discuss the point at this moment. In this respect one is somewhat surprised that *any* library should indiscriminately beg donations of books, for it rarely happens that books of any conspicuous value or of any demand are given. The result is that books are stored in the basement along with unrequired duplicates, worn-out books, and miscellaneous rubbish.

6. In large libraries it is imperative that a most rigorous method of selection should be adopted. In smaller libraries it becomes even more imperative, for the simple reason that the limitation of funds will only allow of the slightest skimming of the cream of literature. It is the height of absurdity for provincial libraries to ape the British Museum and preserve *everything* presented or bought, on the ground that it *might* be wanted one day. One repository for the rubbish shot from the press of a country is quite enough for all purposes.

7. The plan adopted by some libraries of buying books on the principle of not giving more than 2/6 each on the average, is one which will not commend itself to the true librarian. But it is the fact that there are certain librarians who go about boasting that the average cost per volume in their libraries was only 1/9 or 2/1 $\frac{1}{2}$, as the case may be, and the feat of forming a library on this principle is held up for admiration! It may be a clever performance from a commercial standpoint, but the fact remains that libraries built up on such a plan are mere assemblages of rubbish, cheap and nasty editions, yards of shilling poets, and six-penny primers, out of date scientific text-books, the refuse of the reviewer's table, Sunday school gift books, long runs of obsolete magazines, and other trash which is not worth shelf room even in a basement. There is a great deal more of this lust for heaping up quantity rather than quality in Public Libraries than innocent committees and guileless readers suspect, and an inspection of certain catalogues would reveal a state of affairs which would stagger the first promoters of Public Libraries.

8. Public Libraries are not to be debarred from acquiring and preserving classic and other authors who are not considered strictly proper on the merely prudish ground that they are tainted. While a library is bound to stock such classics for the use of students and adult readers of mature judgment, it is not bound to place such works in general circulation, and it is here that discrimination should be exercised.

9. Suggestions by readers are generally of no value.

10. Suggestions of readers are, on the contrary, most helpful.

11. Libraries should collect *everything*.

12. As libraries are neither dust destructors nor marine stores the need for such acquisitiveness does not seem very apparent.

Adjourned.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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To the Editor of THE LIBRARY WORLD.

"HOURS OF LIBRARY ASSISTANTS."

SIR,—In your April issue, under the above heading, appear some unnecessarily harsh and captious remarks, which are as untrue as they were uncalled for.

You ask, "Where is the library which overworks its staff?" and then go on to assume that because assistants have not seen fit to confide in you, that they are all satisfied, and, moreover, are in no cases overworked. But, sir, you seem to entirely forget that assistants are not free agents, and that the one who ventilated his grievance in the public press would have a very unpleasant time when next he interviewed his chief.

Personally, my hours will compare favourably with any in the kingdom, hence I am emboldened to write you on the matter; but if, on the other hand, I knew that I was overworked, wild horses would not drag me into writing about it.

Somehow the impression is borne in upon me that many of your recent remarks are more sarcastic than sincere, and that instead of trying to improve the assistants' *status*, you are hoping to make them the laughing stock of the *Library World*. Whatever may be the views of the "Pseudonyms" on "Mechanism in Librarianship," the assistant is not a machine, and will not be treated as such, and although you may think the public have the right to have the libraries open all day long—aye and far into the night too—it can only do so when it is prepared to employ a sufficiently large staff to ensure that no member of the staff shall have to do more than a fair day's work. All credit be to those librarians and library committees who have inaugurated this "Early Closing Movement." The hour less in the evening, which will mean so little to the public at large, will mean much to the tired assistant. It will enable him during the summer months to visit his local park, there to get the fresh air he is so much in need of, or to go cycling, play tennis, &c., whilst in the winter he will be enabled to attend lectures, or obtain recreation.

I wonder if those who write so much about the "selfishness of assistants," have ever been assistants themselves. Have they ever put in ten hours behind a lending library counter, on a hot summer's day, walking backwards and forwards from bookcase to counter? If so, what hypocrites they must feel. How they must know that with the best chief in the world, the assistant's life is not all honey.

No sir, you are quite mistaken in thinking assistants "selfish," they only ask to be treated with the same consideration as other public officials.

The experience of Mr. Ashton, of Blackburn, published in your February issue, shows clearly that no inconvenience is experienced through closing the lending library at 8 p.m., and that the borrowers have "accepted the altered conditions without any demur whatever." Mr. Ashton goes on to point out, what everyone must have noticed, that some borrowers make it a practice to come in for books at the last minute, when they could as well change them an hour or two earlier. Mr. Ashton also states that at Blackburn—a working class town—"the number of books issued has in no way decreased." Such experience is a complete answer to those who argue that the usefulness of the library would be impaired by earlier closing. As to the "Open-door" agitation being needless, I think your own remarks on the recent Aberdeen appointment are a sufficient answer.

Yours truly,

W. GEO. CHAMBERS.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY, STOKE NEWINGTON, N.,

April 21st, 1900.

"OPEN ACCESS IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES EXPOSED."

SIR,—Mr. Brown, in his letter under the above head, included Stoke Newington in the list of libraries from which books were stolen by Brooks.

Allow me to state that no books belonging to this library were found in the possession of Brooks, and that there was no evidence to connect him with the thefts.

Further, out of 20 vols. which were stolen, 18 were from shelves to which readers have "open access."

Stoke Newington Public Library.

GEORGE PREECE.

To the Editor of THE LIBRARY WORLD.

SIR,—In your April issue you did me the honour to mutilate my pamphlet on "Open Access," by striking out all the context references to the two libraries eulogised by Mr. H. K. Moore, whose article appeared in another periodical and to which mine, as a reply, necessarily referred.

This particular controversy was not raised in your magazine, and the reason for its introduction therein is tolerably clear. Having deleted my remarks, in reply to Mr. Moore, anent the Clerkenwell Library, you then gave Mr. J. D. Brown free licence to refer to the very matters deliberately omitted from my article. I make no complaint. Mr. Brown, having sought your protection, doubtless appreciates it; but the library world, outside the range of spectacles made in Clerkenwell, will probably appraise your support at its market value.

I have no desire to write, and you certainly would not print, the reply which your contributor deserves. It could not be less germane

to "Open Access as a library system" than his communication. If, however, you allow any kind of comment, perhaps you will permit me to say that I recently received two letters from Mr. Brown on the subject under notice, and in my reply (March 19th) I said:—

"I take full responsibility for the statement, as I actually handled books with the Clerkenwell stamp impressions visible by holding the page up to the light."

If I may refer to one of his misrepresentations, I will take the first, which is typical of the rest. I said the thief "lived close to the Clerkenwell Library," which was strictly correct, and any similar institution is far away. Mr. Brown twists this by saying "He did not live in Clerkenwell; he was never a borrower from the Open Access lending library, consequently he could not steal books from it." The thief did not scruple to give false names and addresses and so obtain books, and, as Mr. Brown knows (I presume) how near the man lived to his library, I regret he should have thought it necessary to confuse the fact mentioned.

The tabulated list of losses at other libraries, annotated by Mr. Brown does not represent half the books stolen by the man referred to. I have the best authority for stating that 131 books were stolen from one of the libraries cited, and I am informed that 107 of these were recovered.

The man operated over a considerable period, and manipulated the volumes in a way which attracted my observation. I thus came into possession of information to which I should not have referred but for Mr. Moore's assertion of meagre losses at Clerkenwell.

It happened that the man, correctly named by Mr. Brown, seeking fresh fields, came to Camberwell, and was arrested at the Central Library before leaving the premises. This explains my knowledge of the case, which led to the "exposure of no losses at Open Access Libraries." I fear Mr. Brown is not quite happy, although there is supposed to be bliss in ignorance. He says "No books were missed from Clerkenwell on this occasion." There were many occasions. I hope he will take a cheerful view of things, for

"The robb'd that smiles steals something from the thief;
He robs himself that spends a bootless grief."

Yours truly,

EDWARD FOSKETT.



LOCAL RECORDS.

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THE result of our enquiries (see April issue *Library World*) as to the present storage of local documents in Public Libraries or Museums, and the existing arrangements therein for their preservation is somewhat disappointing. Some librarians have not replied, and some give scanty information.

It is, however, noteworthy that in various popular centres the desirableness of collecting all available local MSS. is recognized, and that the interest in such collections is increasing.

So far, only one correspondent has expressed an adverse view, he writes that no provision is made for safe custody, but says "We have a strong room," and adds:—

"If one may speak for another, I think the time of a librarian is only too well occupied to give attention to the custody of local records."

This reply is, we think, given under misapprehension of the class of "records" we desire to see provided for in libraries or museums. Let us repeat two paragraphs from our April issue:—

"We contend that libraries and museums are the most suitable places for the deposit of all records and documents not of present-day legal importance, while recent records may perhaps be better housed in stores attached to Council or Town Clerks' offices.

"We ask especially for those papers which are of historical, antiquarian, or archæological interest, such as old court rolls, registers, terriers, leases, maps, letters, and the like."

Though the interest taken in such documents is shared by an increasing number of people, there is no likelihood of any rush of visitors anxious to see them, whilst those who do wish to inspect the "records" for purposes of study or reference are worthy of all encouragement. In any case our friend's difficulty would be overcome by the provision of additional assistance if the need arose. If libraries or museums share with County Council Offices in providing accommodation for "records," they should certainly also share in the division of the Government Grant should any be made.

A few examples of replies received in response to our enquiries will be of interest:—

1. "Besides the Owen MSS. (80 volumes), the library has other important MSS., documents and transcripts. To mention only a few, there are a number of original local deeds of the fifteenth to eighteenth centuries, transcripts of the registers of St. Ann's and St. Mary's, and of Stockport Parish Church, a long series of Newton Heath rate books, a most interesting legal document detailing the stock, machinery, and capital of a firm of cotton manufacturers early this century; a volume of Manchester Sessions proceedings, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries; the accounts of the fund raised for the support of the Volunteers in 1803; the original agreement for the half-holiday movement; and several collections of MSS., such as the Jesse Lee, the Hibbert-Ware, and the Burton, all of which are of value to the historical student."

2. "There is a strong room in the Reference Library in which MSS. are kept.

CHARLES W. SUTTON,
Public Free Libraries, Manchester."

"A collection of documents relating to Hundred in which this library is situated.

JOHN HARDING,
Mayer Free Library, Bebington, Birkenhead."

"The St. Giles' Public Library contains several deeds of the late 17th and early 18th centuries relating to the district; among them being the original ground plan of Seven Dials, date about 1691.

W. A. TAYLOR."

"A good local collection, and the Committee are endeavouring in every possible way to gather materials for a complete Local History. Copies of documents now in the Record Office, London, have been made and a fund has been set aside for purchasing local relics, &c.

TOM J. YARWOOD,
Brunner Free Public Library, Northwich."

"We have a small miscellaneous collection of deeds, &c., including autograph letters of George Washington, Robert Hall, Jonathan Swift, Doddridge, and others."

Leicester Museum.

"1. A number of deeds relating to property in the parish, of the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries have been acquired, together with a small collection of miscellaneous papers of the 18th century (some original and some copies) referring to public events and local institutions of that time. These include letters, transcripts of deeds, charters, &c.

"2. There is no strong room at the library. The Vestry is considering a scheme for placing all ancient books and documents relating to the parish in the Reference Library, and arranging for their proper storage and preservation,

L. INKSTER,
Battersea Public Library."

"Register of Freemen; Records of various 'Funds'; Minutes, Accounts, Subscription Lists, &c.; Old local MSS. and Letters.

"There is a feeling of sympathy and a growing tendency in the town to recognise the library as the proper place for depositing such records, and several gifts have recently been made.

R. ASHTON,
Free Library, Blackburn."

"1. Several hundred plans, views, maps, original documents and books relating to the county of Surrey, and stored at the Minet Library.

"2. Strong Room provided at Central Library, and at Minet Library.

F. J. BURGOYNE,
Lambeth Public Libraries."

"It is the rule now, and has been for years past, to acquire anything and everything which relates to the city and county.

THOS. DUCKWORTH,
Worcester Public Library

"The Survey of the parish was handed over by the Poor Law Authorities to be kept at the Public Library when the latter was erected; others were acquired by purchase."

Librarian, Public Library, Watford.

"Fifty volumes Arbroath Bibliography presented, and other volumes purchased."

Librarian, Arbroath.

"A local collection is being formed, which shall be well preserved, and necessary a strong room will be provided."

Public Library, Darwin

"1. A number of old parochial records, some MSS. (17th century) and a collection of local literature belong to this library.

"2. Probably a suitable strong room will be built.

W. E. DOUBLEDAY,
Public Library, Hampstead."

"These questions have been answered to the Treasury Committee's enquiries—the Public Library being indicated as the most suitable place for custody of records.

W. W. MIDGLEY,
Chadwick Museum, Bolton."

"1. We have a large number of local MSS., Transcripts from Bishop's and Parish Registers; a few Deeds, and many Letters and Pedigrees.

"2. All kept in a special room, in a *fire-proof* building, well supplied with *fire appliances*, &c."

Librarian, Carlisle.

"1. The Minute Books and other records of the Longton Police Commissioners (previous to the incorporation of the town), and the Minute Books, &c., of the Dresden and East Vale Local Boards (since annexed to Longton) have been ordered by the Town Council to be deposited in the Public Library, as a result of the consideration of the recent Treasury circular.

"2. A safe is to be procured in which to preserve such records."

Public Library, Longton.

"1. There are a great number of Registers, Deeds, old MSS., Letters and Maps in our Reference Library. These are mostly local. We exhibit a large number of old local Deeds in our Museum.

"2. My Committee, in a very short time, hope to be in a position to provide a strong room."

Librarian, Shrewsbury.

Mr. Sutton's reply shows that the Manchester Public Library managers have recognised the value of local MSS. for reference. That which Manchester has been able to accomplish on a large scale may well be attempted on a smaller scale in many smaller towns.

We would draw especial attention to the replies of Mr. Inkster and Mr. Ashton. Here we have two localities, Battersea and Blackburn, in which the conditions are distinctly different, yet in each case we find the local authorities inclined to encourage the deposit of local records in the Public Library.

Mr. Lancaster, of St. Helens, writes that (though at present only possessing sundry Minute and Poll Books):--

"If records of more value were entrusted to the care of the Library Committee, I feel sure they would be prepared to make very special provision for their safe custody and preservation."

Until recently, the attention of librarians has not been much called to this branch of their collections, but the growing interest which is taken in searching into the methods, habits, and thoughts of our forerunners, makes it advisable to devote care and consideration to acquiring and preserving documents such as we have indicated, and we would recommend librarians or curators never to lose an opportunity of suggesting the presentation of these "records," for many are in the hands of people to whom they are valueless, or possessed by bodies and societies having no further use for them.

We cannot better conclude than by quoting from a letter written by Mr. W. G. Hale, of Redruth :—

"I should think libraries are ideal places for such a purpose, and am much obliged to you for sending me the circular. I hope you will be successful in awaking public interest on this point. Individually, I shall always strive to secure any local records, as I think here is the place where they are most likely to prove useful to the public."



A FEW WORDS ON THE CENSOR IN THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

By FRANK E. CHENNEL, *Willesden Green.*

o o o

AMONGST many problems which have arisen during the past few years to trouble and perplex the soul of the public librarian few, perhaps, will cause him more worry than that which forms the subject of the present article.

It must first be noted that the duties of a library censor are somewhat difficult to define. One of our statesmen, some time ago, dubbed the present day "an age of unintelligible phrases." Librarians, it is to be feared, do not attempt to refute this dictum. Many of them talk glibly of "censorship," "open access," and kindred terms in much the same vague manner as the man in the street has recently gabbled of "suzerainty." It is, for instance, often argued, that, in the exercise of his ordinary duties connected with the purchase of new books, the librarian constitutes himself a censor. "If," says the critic, "he is called upon to *select* books, he must obviously at the same time *reject* books. The first implies the second." The detection of the sophistry of this argument will not involve a great tax upon the intelligence of readers. Nevertheless, it will, perhaps, be well to show the distinction between the selector and the censor.

The librarian is nowadays compelled to select books if only from the fact that it is impossible, and certainly undesirable, to obtain for his library a copy of every work published. A glance at the weekly output of literature as evidenced in the columns of the literary papers will quickly make it apparent that a selection is essentially necessary. Byron's remark of over ninety years ago is equally true to-day :—

"The loaded press beneath her labour groans,
And printer's devils shake their weary bones."

The press still groans, only louder, and the "devils" far from being extinct are more *en evidence* than before, though mechanical devices have done much to alleviate the sufferings of the "Chapel imp."

It must be mentioned in addition that the librarian has had to be guided in his selection of books for purchase by the already existing

strength or weakness of the various sections of his library, and, more especially by the length of his purse.

The censor, however, exercises a direct veto, and moreover a veto often in direct opposition to the wishes of his readers. In one instance a book, though by an author of repute, is tabooed on the ground of fancied impropriety. In another, the complete works of an author are excluded from the library because, forsooth, in the opinion of that monument of erudition, the librarian, they have not reached the standard of literary excellence which he himself has set up. This, although the works in question have received a large measure of general approval by passing through many editions.

Not long since, it was reported that the tender susceptibilities of a Public Library Committee had been offended to such an extent by a work of a popular author that at the expense of making themselves extremely ridiculous they made a holocaust of the offending literature.

Another Library Committee after relegating Ouida's works to the Reference Department (why *reference* is not very apparent) suddenly discovered a well-read novel by one of our foremost writers to be "indecent" and "shameful." This was also submitted to the refining influence of the same department.

Again, in 1896, the Committee of a library in the Midlands discussed at length a novel by Mr. Thos. Hardy. In this case the reason assigned for its subsequent withdrawal is almost ludicrous. I quote from *The Library*:—"Owing to a remarkable run having been made upon the work, the wife of a member of Committee read it and pronounced it 'beastly'!!"

These are but a few samples of the work of the Censor and culled from our professional literature.

In perusing instances of this nature one hesitates which most to admire. The wonderful forbearance of the British public in permitting others to select for it certain innocuous literary paths in which it may wander, or the presumption of the official who ventures to sit in judgment upon the offspring of far abler minds than his own.

It is surely hardly necessary to state that in condemning the censor I do not wish it to be inferred that I advocate the indiscriminate placing upon the shelves of books which it would possibly be injudicious to issue to the budding young man or woman. But it must be remembered that, though the censorship of the press is obsolete, criminal law still provides for press offences against morality. This latter, and the fact that the tone of literature of the present day is decidedly healthy should considerably ease the mind of the librarian who has qualms of conscience concerning the admission to the shelves of works he deems of doubtful character. Certainly the books responsible for the actions taken in the instances quoted can hardly be said to contain an offence against criminal law. On the contrary, they are books which will be found in the catalogues of most libraries, and are works which possess high literary merit, by authors of established standing.

Perhaps the librarian whose self imposed censorial duties are most to be deplored is he who, with a printer's roller, carefully disfigures and mutilates the daily newspaper by obliterating betting and racing intelligence. The performance is redolent of autocracy. It has always been a source of wonder to many why this portion of the newspaper should be censored whilst columns devoted to football, cricket, and even sporting club pugilistic encounters should be undisturbed. It would appear that the librarian is of the same opinion as Sir Anthony Absolute, that, "A circulating library in a town is an evergreen tree of diabolical knowledge," and that in censoring he is but doing a little judicious pruning.

I have endeavoured to ascertain from one or two librarians who indulge in this caprice the reasons for their action. The replies were similar in each instance, and the reasons adduced purely what might be termed sentimental.

No one has apparently raised the question as to the right of any official to mutilate public property to this extent. That it will be raised one day there can be no doubt, and it will probably be found that the librarian, in his zeal, for the moral well-being of his readers, has acted *ultra vires*. A reader in any Public Library where such a censorship is maintained is surely justified in asking that an enquiry be made into both the right of the official to assume such responsibilities, and, more especially, as to the qualifications of the librarian to act as his literary taster.

Some one wittily and tersely summed up the whole matter when he observed "He would no more defer to the opinion of a librarian as to the literature he should, or should not, read, than he would accept the contents of the worthy librarian's tobacco-pouch as a criterion of the 'weed' he should smoke."



THE LATE MR. J. D. MULLINS.

o o o

IT is with much regret that we have to chronicle the death of Mr. John Davies Mullins, who for more than thirty years was the Chief Librarian to the Corporation of Birmingham. For the last few years Mr. Mullins had been in declining health from the development of paralytic symptoms, particularly affecting the lower extremities. These gradually assumed an acute form, and, much to the regret of his many friends, he was compelled, in the summer of 1898, to relenquish the position he had so long and honourably held. Since then, although his general health was fairly good, he had been practically confined to his residence, 32, Wretham Road, Handsworth. A week ago his condition became critical, and he passed peacefully away on — at seven o'clock.

Mr. Mullins was in his sixty-eighth year, having been born in London in 1832. In March, 1858, when little more than twenty-five years old, he was appointed to the charge of the old Birmingham Library in Union Street, being selected out of 126 candidates. Two years later the retirement of the late Mr. George Jabet from the presidency of the institution, cast the whole responsibility of conducting it upon Mr. Mullins, and the faithful work which he performed is still remembered by the book-lovers of that generation. The amalgamation of the New Library in Temple Row West with the Union Street Library in 1860, gave Mr. Mullins fuller opportunities for exercising his faculties for organisation and systemisation, and he earned the gratitude of old and new subscribers alike by the industry and resource which he brought to bear in the discharge of his duties.

Mr. Mullins became the Chief Librarian to the Corporation on the 30th May, 1865, and thenceforward his history was practically the history of the Birmingham Free Libraries. After his appointment he was associated with Mr. Sam Timmins and Mr. Jacob Phillips (the then chairman of the committee) in the selection of books. The Central Lending Library was opened in September, 1865, with 10,000 volumes, and twelve months later the Reference Library was opened with 16,195 volumes, in addition to 2,000 volumes of specifications of patents. The issue of books in the first year amounted to 11,468. In successive years the institution was greatly extended, and became an exceedingly prosperous auxiliary to the educational agencies of the town. Eight years from the inauguration three branch libraries and the Shakspeare Library had been organised, in addition to a small library at Adderley Park, Saltley. In 1872 a voluntary arrangement on the part of the staff enabled the libraries to be opened on Sundays, and Mr. Mullins ably co-operated with the committee in bringing the new departure into working with the minimum of extra burden to his assistant. In 1878 the number of volumes in the Reference Library had increased to 44,519, and the issues for that year were 259,144. This was the year preceding the destruction of the libraries by fire, which took place in January, 1879, when Birmingham suffered its greatest and an almost irreparable loss. At this time Mr. Mullins contemplated retirement, but he was induced to continue in office, and his experience and thorough mastery of the details of the work were invaluable in the reconstruction of the institution.

Under Mr. Mullin's direction, the Free Libraries grew and prospered. More branch libraries were opened, as a relief to the central institution, and, thanks to his wide and accurate knowledge of the requirements of the people, these branches have become extremely popular. He continued his services long after his health began to fail, and, when finally he retired on superannuation in June, 1898, it was with the sincere thanks of the Committee and the Council for his long and faithful services to the city. No better testimony to the success of the Free Library movement is to be found than in a comparison of the first and last years of the institution under the direction of Mr. Mullins. In 1865, the year he was appointed Chief Librarian, the number of

volumes was under 30,000, and the issues of books 11,468. In 1898, when he retired, the number of volumes was more than 233,000, and the total issues of books was upwards of one-and-a-quarter millions. A part of the library to which Mr. Mullins devoted a great deal of attention was the collection of manuscripts relating to the history of Birmingham, a large portion of which were obtained from the collection of Mr. Timmins. He was, moreover, very successful in his method of cataloguing; and the catalogue of Shakspearean editions which he prepared was unique in its completeness and comprehensiveness, and frequent recourse was had to it, not only by Englishmen, but by Americans and Germans. Mr. Mullins was a man of considerable culture, and a graceful speaker, and was held in high regard for his private worth. He leaves a widow and family of three sons and a daughter.—*Birmingham Daily Post*.



THE LIBRARIAN'S LIBRARY.

o o o

AT various times during the past twenty years lists of "best books" for everybody, or for particular classes have been compiled with much industry by all kinds of experts, with more or less success. Among these lists provision is made for the needs, or supposed needs, of children, clergymen, artists, musicians, teachers, socialists, and others, who are only amateur book-handlers, while the needs of professional book-handlers like librarians have been neglected. To remedy this to some extent, the following tentative list of books which every librarian ought to possess, is submitted, in the hope that it may be found useful and suggestive. An article in the March, 1900, number of the *Library World* entitled "The Neglect of Professional Literature," draws attention to a state of matters which is not at all creditable to English librarianship. From our own observation we can endorse every word written in that article, and can add that careful examination of the catalogues of a large number of Public Libraries shows how very few have got more than a tithe of the books entered on the following list. How any man aspiring to the dignity of librarian can call himself by this name, while not possessing the tools of the craft, even if he does not possess the cunning wherewith to use them, passes comprehension. It is like a man hiring a shop and calling himself a hairdresser, without having as much as a razor, scissors and a shaving-brush! Is it a very marvellous thing, in view of this state of affairs, that so much bad cataloguing, classification and general management exists?

One of the first pieces of knowledge which a librarian should acquire is what the tools of librarianship are, and where they may be

found. We are satisfied that this is just the subject which not one librarian in twenty has mastered, otherwise it is impossible to account for the extraordinary meagreness of the representation of professional books in Public Libraries. But, in justice to librarians and their staffs, it may be allowed that the absence of a general list of librarian's books may have had some effect in keeping down the supply, and for that reason we have ventured to compile a first rough list of the books every librarian ought to procure, together with as many more, in the form of general or special bibliographies, as he likes to add. This does not pretend to be more than a preliminary list, which can be revised and extended later, but it gives most of the books in English which are likely to prove useful. An asterisk * denotes books which are indispensable if good work is wanted. Suggestions for this list are cordially invited. When the list is more complete, an index will be added to show the writers on subjects like cataloguing, architecture, classification, &c.

A great deal of the best professional literature exists in the form of papers and articles which have been published in journals. These, of course, cannot be dealt with here, but most of the journals can be purchased for a comparatively small outlay.

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NEWS-ROOMS.

By WALTER S. C. RAE, *Public Library, Darwin.*

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“NEWS and Reading Rooms are generally so familiar to most persons that little need be said regarding them,” says Greenwood in his *Public Libraries*. They have so long been considered by all librarians to be a necessary adjunct to every Public Library that I hope to be pardoned for raising objections to what I look upon as one of the main causes for the poverty from which our medium and smaller sized Public Libraries suffer. They do good in large centres, such as London, Glasgow, Manchester, and Liverpool, where references are often made to the principal London, provincial, and foreign newspapers, which every news-room should contain, but for a town of about 40,000 inhabitants, with a rate which brings in about £500 a year, news-rooms, in my opinion, should be abolished, or at any rate considerably curtailed. One has only to consider the amount of space which is necessary before news-rooms can be made comfortable to those who use them. Say we have six newspapers (which is a small number) each one must be provided with a stand, which will allow the paper to be opened out on both sides. When these stands have been purchased, we are forced to dip further into our already overburdened exchequer, and provide tables for the periodicals, and chairs for the readers. Some of my readers will say when these have been purchased there is no further expense in that direction. That is so, although it should be remembered that this expense comes when a library is being formed and money is wanted for the purchase of books.

The same cannot be said, however, of magazine covers, the expense of providing which is, I know, the cause of much worry to many librarians whose rate yields a fairly large sum. “There is much urgent need for something in the way of periodical covers, which will last for a few years without wearing out.” When one considers that the life of a magazine cover, say for *The Graphic* (which costs 5/- or 7/6) is about two years, I think it is sheer folly on the part of librarians to spend money on providing them.

Let us now consider what might be called permanent objections to news-rooms. These are three in number:—the oversight; the class of readers who use the news-room; the expense of binding or filing some of the magazines and periodicals taken. In a news-room it is absolutely necessary to have a member of the staff, be it assistant or janitor, in the room to keep readers from talking. This means that an extra assistant is necessary and must be paid, or it may be the janitor who is responsible for this room as well as glancing at the others occasionally. Janitors, especially if they are adorned with a uniform, may be good for frightening our younger readers into silence, but when a dispute arises between two or more readers as to who should have a magazine, they have a remarkable trick of disappearing, like our police-

man, until the dispute has been settled, when they usually turn up, asking in all innocence, what is wrong? The news-room I have found to be the only place in a library which has a foul smell about it, this I attribute to the class of readers who are generally found in them, viz. : loafers. Of course I do not mean that respectable and cleanly people never use our news-rooms, far from it, but what I hold is that it is to our news-rooms the loafers of the district flock. Here they seek out a quiet corner, sheltered from the view of our aforementioned policeman-janitor, by a friendly magazine cover, and obtain the quiet sleep which was perhaps not granted them the previous night. Then again, why should all those magazines be placed at the disposal of our male readers? This question will no doubt surprise a few of my readers, who will be eager to inform me that news-rooms are open to all. That is so, but does a lady reader care to enter a room where she is the only one of her sex present? I think, and my experience proves, that our lady readers do not care to do so, while many of them have not the courage to ask an assistant to bring a particular magazine into the ladies' room. I come now to my last objection, which concerns the librarian only; the expense of binding or filing a few of the magazines and periodicals taken, to say nothing of the anxiety it gives every conscientious librarian before he decides what is worth preserving and what should be destroyed. It is a sorry sight to visit some of our smaller libraries and find row upon row of bound volumes of magazines and periodicals filling valuable space, each volume well bound, and all in beautiful order, while on the top edge there is to be found a layer of dust deep enough to afford planting room for potatoes. Are we doing right in accumulating all these magazines containing articles which are very often reprinted in book form, and purchased for our "Miscellaneous" class, at the same time crying out for more money and more room?

This short paper, with which some of my readers may not altogether agree, has not been written with the intention of advocating the abolition of existing news-rooms, some of which are the pride and the cause for a deal of worry to their librarians, but as a plea for the lessening of our news-rooms of the future. I know that in many, if not in all Public Libraries, the news-room acts as an antidote to our fiction issue, as these rooms are frequented, especially in the evening, by those who would otherwise do all their reading from the novels in the library, but why so much space for a news-room when, in many cases, this department could be amalgamated with the reference library? It would be much cheaper to have one or two tables in our reference libraries reserved for the newspapers of the district, as well as a few of the more popular magazines. The readers would then be under the supervision of the assistant at the reference library counter, an arrangement which would give our lady readers a little more confidence and courage, and would free our medium and smaller sized Public Libraries from our present large and too costly news-rooms, which are such a drain on their incomes, which, in nearly every case is inadequate.

SEQUEL STORIES.

By THOMAS ALDRED, *Librarian, St. George-the-Martyr Public Library, London.*

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I HAVE defined sequels as works by the same author:—

- (a) In which the same character or characters appear.
- (b) Which portray customs and inhabitants of a particular place.
- (c) Which, from their size or other considerations, are published in more than one volume, but with different titles.

In short, stories, the reading interest of which depends in some degree on the afore or after reading of other works.

The works named are arranged in the order they are recommended to be read.

Well knowing the weakness of my list, I venture to ask librarians and assistants to inform either *Mr. Editor* or myself of desirable corrections and sequel stories not listed. As this is a matter likely to be of service to many engaged in library work, co-operation is earnestly desired. Only by such means can the Supplementary List it is proposed to print be made to fulfil its purpose, viz., causing the combined lists to be fairly representative of the sequel stories published or sold in this country. American and French stories which are not sold in the ordinary run of trade in this country are excluded from the list, on the ground of unduly trespassing at the present time on Mr. Editor's space.

ABOUT, E. LES MARIAGES DE PROVINCE:	AIMARD, G.
Le mari imprévu	Tiger slayer
Le marquis de Lanrose	Gold seekers
Les vacances de la comtesse	
ADAMS, H. C. TALES OF CHARLTON	Prairie flower
SCHOOL & WALTER'S SCHOOLDAYS:	Indian scout
Cherry stones	ALCOTT, L. M. AUNT JO'S SCRAP BAG
First of June	series:
Doctor's birthday	My boys
Walter's friend	Shawl straps
TALES OF NETHERCOURT:	Cupid and Chow Chow
Chief of the school	My girls
Lost rifle	Jimmy's cruise in the <i>Pinafore</i>
AGNEW, E. C.	Old fashioned thanksgiving
Geraldine	
Rome and the abbey	Little women
AGUILAR, G.	Little men
Home influence	Jo's boys
Mother's recompense	} These stories are published with several different titles.
	Eight cousins
	Rose in bloom

- Work
Beginning again
- ALDEN, W. L.
Moral pirate
Cruise of the *Ghost*
- ANDOM, R. (A. W. Barrett)
We three and Troddles'
Troddles' and us, and others
- ATKINSON, J. C.
Walks and talks of two schoolboys
Play-hours and half-holidays
- BALGARNIE, R.
The wreck at the Spa
Burning of the Spa saloon
- BALLANTYNE, R. M. TALES OF AD-
VENTURE. 4 series.
Coral island
Gorilla hunters
- BALZAC, H. DE. ŒUVRES (Works).
(The *Comédie humaine* comprise the
first 40 vols.)
- SCÈNES DE LA VIE PRIVÉE (Scenes
of private life.)
Tome 1.—La Maison du Chat-qui-
Pelote (At the sign of the Cat and
Racket)
Le bal de Sceaux (The ball at
Sceaux)
La Bourse (The Bourse)
La Vendetta (The Vendetta)
Mme. Firmiani
Une double famille (A double
family)
Tome 2.—La paix du ménage (The
peace of the household)
La fausse maîtresse (The false
mistress)
Étude de femme (A study of
woman)
Autre étude de femme (Another
study of woman)
La Grande Bretèche
Albert Savarus
Tome 3.—Mémoires de deux jeunes
mariées (Memoirs of two young
brides)
Une fille d'Eve (A daughter of
Eve)
Tome 4.—La femme de trente ans (A
woman of thirty)
La femme abandonnée (The aban-
doned woman)
La Grenadière (? The new woman)
Le message (The message)
Gobseck
- Tome 5.*—Le contrat de mariage (A
marriage settlement)
Un début dans la vie (The first
appearance)
Tome 6.—Modeste Mignon
Tome 7.—Béatrix
Tome 8.—Honorine
Le Colonel Chabert
La messe de l'Athee (The athiest's
mass)
L'Interdiction (The interdict)
Pierre Grasson
- SCÈNES DE LA VIE DE PROVINCE (Scenes
of provincial life)
Tome 9.—Ursule Mirouët
Tome 10.—Eugénie Grandet
Tomes 11-12.—Les célibataires (The
bachelors). Pierrette. Le curé de
Tours (The vicar of Tours). Un
ménage de Garçon (A bachelor's
household)
Tome 13.—Les Parisiens en province
(Parisians in the country). L'
illustre Gaudissart (The illustrious
Gaudissart). Muse du départe-
ment (A provincial muse)
Tome 14.—Les rivalités ()
La vieille fille (An old maid). Le
cabinet des antiques (A collection
of antiquities)
Tome 15.—Le lys dans la vallée (The
lily of the valley)
Tomes 16-17. Illusions perdues (Lost
illusions). Le deux poètes (Two
poets). Un grand homme de
province à Paris (A great (?) pro-
vincial man in Paris). ze p, Ève
et David (Eve and David)
- SCÈNES DE LA VIE PARISIENNE (Scenes
of Parisian life)
Tome 18.—Splendeurs et misères des
courtisanes (Splendours and
miseries of the courtisans. *Same*
as Harlot's progress). Esther
heureuse (Happy Esther). A
combien l'amour revient aux
viellards (What love costs old
men). Où mènent les mauvais
chemins (Where bad roads lead)
Tome 19.—La dernière incarnation de
Vautrin (The last incarnation of
Vautrin). Un prince de la
Bohème (A bohæmian prince).
Un homme d'affaires (A business
man). Gaudissart II. (The second
Gaudissart). Les comédiens sans
le savoir (Comedians without
knowing it, or Unconscious num-
mers)

Tome 20.—Histoire des Tréize (History of the Thirteen). Ferragus. Duchesse de Langeais (Duchess of Langeais). Fille aux yeux d'or (The daughter with the golden eyes)

Tome 21.—La Père Goriot (Daddy Goriot)

Tome 22.—César Birotteau

Tome 23.—La maison Nucingen (The Nucingen House). Les secrets de la Princesse de Cadignan (Princess Cadignan's secrets). Les employés (The employées). Sarrasine. Facino Cane

Tome 24.—Les parents pauvres: La Cousine Bette (The poor relations: Cousin Betty)

Tome 25.—Les parents pauvres: Le Cousin Pons (The poor relations: Cousin Pons)

SCÈNES DE LA VIE POLITIQUE (Scenes of political life)

Tome 26.—Une ténébreuse affaire (A mysterious affair). Un épisode sous la Terreur (An episode during the Terror)

Tome 27.—L'envers de l'histoire contemporaine (The seamy side of modern history). Madame de la Chanterie. L'Initié (The initiated). Z. Marcas

Tome 28.—Le député d'Arcis (The member for Arcis)

SCÈNES DE LA VIE MILITAIRE (Scenes of military life)

Tome 29.—Les Chouans (The Chouans). Une passion dans le désert (A passion in the desert)

SCÈNES DE LA VIE DE CAMPAGNE (Scenes of country life)

Tome 30.—Le médecin de campagne (The country doctor)

Tome 31.—Le curé de village (The country parson)

Tome 32.—Les Paysans (The peasantry) Études philosophiques (Philosophical studies)

Tome 33.—Le peau de chagrin (The wild ass's skin)

Tome 34.—La recherche de l'absolu (The quest of the absolute) Jésus-Christ en Flandre (Jesus Christ in Flanders). Melmoth reconcilié (Melmoth reconciled). Le chef-d'œuvre inconnu (The hidden masterpiece)

Tome 35.—L'enfant maudit (The cursed child). Gambara, Massimilla Doni

Tome 36.—Les Marana (The Marana). Adieu (Good-bye). L'réquitionnaire (The recruiter). El Verdugo. Un drame au bord de la mer (A sea-side drama). L'Auberge Rouge (The Red Inn). L'elixir de longue vie (The elixir of long life). Maître Cornélius (Master Cornelius)

Tome 37.—Sur Catherine de Medicis (About Catherine de Medicis). Le martyr Calviniste (The Calvinist martyr). La confiance des Ruggieri (The confidence of the Ruggieri). Les deux rêves (Two dreams)

Tome 38.—Louis Lambert. Les proscrits (The exiles). Seraphita. Études analytiques (Analytical studies)

Tome 39.—Physiologie du mariage (The physiology of marriage)

Tome 40.—Petites misères de la vie conjugale (The little miseries of conjugal life)

CONTES DROLATIQUES (Droll stories)

Tome 41.—*1er dixain.* La Belle Impéria (The beautiful Impéria). Le péché veniel (Venial sin). La mye du Roy, etc. (The king's darling, etc.)

Tome 42.—*2e dixain.* Les trois clercs de Saint Nicholas (The three clerks of St. Nicholas). Le jeusne de François premier, etc. (The fast of Francis I., etc.)

Tome 43.—*3e dixain.* Persévérance d'amour (Perseverance in love). D'ung justiciard qui ne se remembroyt les chouses (About a magistrate who did not remember anything)

THÉÂTRE (Plays):

Tome 44.—Vautrin, drame (Vautrin, a drama). Le ressources de Quinola (Quinola's expedients)

Tome 45.—La marâtre, drama (The step-mother: a drama). Le faiseur (Mercadet), comédie (A gentleman of fortune: a comedy)

ŒUVRES DE JEUNESSE (Early works)

Tome 46.—Jean Louis

Tome 47.—L'Israélite (The Jew)

Tome 48.—L'héritière de Birague (The heiress of Birague)

Tome 49.—Le centenaire (The centenarian)

Tome 50.—La dernière fée (The last fairy)

- Tome 51.*—Le vicaire des Ardennes
(The vicar of the Ardennes)
- Tome 52.*—Argon le pirate (Argon, the pirate)
- Tome 53.*—Jane la Pale (Pale-faced Jane)
- Tome 54.*—Dom Gigadas
- Tome 55.*—L'excommunié (The excommunicate)
- BANGS, J. K. HOUSEBOAT series :—
Houseboat on the Styx
Pursuit of the houseboat
- BARKER, LADY (now Lady Broome)
Half-hours with my girls
More half-hours with my girls
- BARLOW, J. LISCONNEL series :—
Irish idylls
Strangers at Lisconnel
From the east unto the west
- BARNUM, P. T.
Lion Jack
Jack in the jungle
- BARRIE, J. M. CHRONICLES OF THRUMS :—
Auld licht idylls
Window in Thrums
The little minister
Sentimental Tommy
Tommy and Grizel
- BAYLY, E. B.
Zackary Brough's venture
Forestwyk
- BELL, C. D.
Cousin Kate's story
Autumn at Karnford
- BELLAMY, E.
*Looking Backward
Equality
*Was replied to by R. Michaelis in *Looking Further Backward*. S. Schindler's *Young West* is a continuation of Bellamy's *Looking Backward*.
- BELOT, A.
Les étrangleurs (Stranglers of Paris)
Grande Florine
- BENSON, E. F.
The vintage
The Capsina
- BOOTHBY, G. DR. NIKOLA series :—
Bid for fortune
Dr. Nikola
Lust of hate
Dr. Nikola's experiment
- BORROW, G.
Lavengro
Romany Rye
- BOUSSENARD, L.
Crusoes of Guiana
Gold seekers
- BRADDON, M. E. (now Mrs. Maxwell)
Birds of prey
Charlotte's inheritance
- BRAMSTON, M.
Snowball society
Home and school
- BRAY, E. O.
Willie and May
A month at the sea-side
- BURGIN, G. B.
Judge of the Four Corners
"Old man's" marriage
- BURNETT, Mrs. F. H. (now Mrs. Townes-
A lady of quality [end].
His grace of Osmond
- BUTLER, M. M.
Waiting and serving
Daffodil
- CAINE, O. V.
Face to face with Napoleon
In the year of Waterloo
- CARROLL, LEWIS (C. L. Dodgson)
*Alice's adventures under ground
Through the looking-glass
*This is a facsimile of the original MS. which was afterwards developed into *Alice's adventures in Wonderland*. An American, writing under the name of C. E. Carryl, has published a book entitled "Davy and the goblin; or what followed reading *Alice's adventures in Wonderland*."
Sylvo and Bruno
Sylvo and Bruno *concluded*
- CHARLES, Mrs. E. R.
The Draytons and the Davenants
On both sides of the shield
- Winifred Bertram
The Bertram family
- CHARLESWORTH, M. L.
Ministering children
Ministering children : a sequel
- Old looking-glass
Broken looking-glass
- CHOLMONDELEY, M.
The Danvers jewels
Sir Charles Danvers

(To be continued.)

THE LIBRARY STAFF.

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A Word to Assistants.

BY
WILLIAM WILSON.

THE assistant whose duty it is to attend at the counter has it in his power to wield a tremendous influence over the minds of the borrowers with whom he comes in contact. "This is rather high-flown language," I hear some assistant say, who considers the work of delivering books mere drudgery. "Not at all," I reply ; at the same time I agree with him in thinking that his duties are monotonous, but has it never struck him that he himself is partly to blame for this state of affairs ?

If, when asked for a book by its press-mark, he turns mechanically to the shelf, takes down the book bearing that number, dates the fly-leaf of the volume and hands it to the borrower, without the remotest idea of what the book is. or when asked by someone to pick a book replies in the too-often used words "consult the catalogue," then at this rate the monotony is likely to remain unbroken. Now, there is a remedy, and that is what I am about to attempt to bring home to those assistants, who, perchance, have not, as yet, given the matter a thought.

Why not begin to take an interest in people, and in what they read ? This, I am sure, would prove entertaining to the assistant and beneficial to the reader. For instance, to begin with, take the case of juveniles. Many of these youngsters, when they become members of the library, are perfectly at sea in their ideas of what to read. They have, perhaps, been in the habit of devouring the trash, which at the present day is, unfortunately, so plenteous, in the form of half-penny or penny dreadfuls. In this case the assistant might attempt a task of reform. It will be easy to detect this kind of youth, he will hunt up the catalogue for such books as "Jack Sheppard," "Guy Fawkes," "Eugene Aram," &c., and come and ask for them at the counter. Well, here is a chance ; would it not be worth attempting to substitute for these such books as "Westward Ho !" "Tom Brown's Schooldays," and hosts of others which it is unnecessary to mention.

There will also be those who have read nothing other than their school books, and whom, consequently, it will not be difficult to initiate into the reading of healthy literature, there being no unsound stuff to dislodge from their minds. Perhaps the easiest and pleasantest work will be that of lending a helping hand in the continuity of good reading among youths who already, through the kindly influence of some interested party, have been able to read good literature. Someone is perhaps thinking that this is all very well, but at the same time will it be possible to have such an influence as this. In the large majority of cases I am convinced that the attempt will not prove a failure. Most youths will be quite willing to listen to, and make confidants of, assistants who, to begin with, show themselves friendly and interested.

Of course there will be cases, though few, in which it will not be possible, or prudent, to offer any advice. This work, once begun, will know no end. There will soon be enquiries for books in other departments of the library than that of fiction; for instance, what youth, after reading "A Tale of Two Cities," will not wish to know more of the French Revolution, or after "Westward Ho!" more of the times of good Queen Bess, and her glorious seamen. Such books as those of Scott, Dickens, Kingsley, Hughes, Kingston, Marryat, &c., which exalt virtue, and condemn vice, are the very volumes to put into the hands of the rising generation. I ask all assistants to give the matter a thought, Is not this a noble ideal worth the support of all? It must, of course, be remembered that if an assistant himself has not been, and is not, in the habit of reading and studying good literature, then his advice and influence will not be for good, but rather for the reverse. I rejoice to know that in many parts of the land, Library Committees and School Boards have taken into consideration the question of catering for the young, with the result that School Libraries have been formed, Lectures delivered to children, the age limit reduced, and Juvenile Reading Rooms opened. As regards the reading of adults it will hardly be possible for an assistant to make any effort in the way of reform (when necessary), because the majority of these borrowers would not receive such advice with a good grace. However, there may, now and again, arise an opportunity, in which case the earnest assistant would be ready to make the best of it.

In conclusion, I will just repeat, that an assistant's well-meant efforts would, in most cases, be crowned with success.

IN reply to a note on this subject which appeared
Special Library in this column a few months ago, we have pleasure in
Bindings. printing the experience of a correspondent who has tried
 both ways of binding. He says: "We find it better to purchase novels in the publishers' binding and allow readers to guide us as to the advisability of rebinding in special library binding or replacing the novel by one bound in the same binding from the publishers' sheets. Many of the novels which are published have only a short life, because of the wretched paper on which they are printed, so that when books belonging to this class were purchased in sheets and specially bound, we found it to be the more expensive way. Of course, when any standard novel requires replacing such as 'Westward Ho!' or 'Adam Bede,' we do not hesitate to replace it by a specially bound copy. The case is different, however, as regards books for a new library. Complete sets of standard authors should be procured in strong special binding, as they are sure to be in constant demand. We have not had any books bound in 'Pegamoid,' or rather with material which has been dealt with by this preparation, nor do we know 'Peltine,' but as the subject is one of great interest to librarians, we are sure the 'Library Staff' will be glad to receive the experience of any of our fellow-workers in this direction."

LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS.

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We shall be glad to receive items of news for this department from Librarians and others, as to changes in the working or policy of Libraries, appointments, adoptions of the Libraries' Acts, or anything of general interest.

AN International **Congress of Librarians** in connection with the series of Congresses promoted by the authorities of the **Paris Exhibition**, will be held at Paris, from August 20th to 23rd inclusive. All persons interested in libraries are invited, and a payment of 10 francs to the treasurer is necessary to secure membership. The meetings will be held at the Sorbonne, and the proceedings will be conducted in French, the official language of the Congress. The prospectus, which has just been issued, contains a series of regulations for the proceedings of the Congress, and gives a list under four divisions of the subjects proposed to be discussed. Division 1 will be devoted to the History, Legislation, and Organisation of Public Libraries, and the questions of Legal Deposit, Copyright, &c. Division 2 will deal with Library Buildings, Furniture and Fittings. Division 3 includes Treatment of MSS., Printed Books, Maps, Engravings and Photographs; Accession and Registration; Marking, Classification, Cataloguing and Binding. Division 4 deals with Public use of Books in Reference and Lending Libraries, Inter-library Loans, Spread of Infection, &c. On the whole, a very comprehensive scheme. Intending members are invited to submit papers on these subjects before July 15th, and it is stipulated that they must be accompanied by a translation or *résumé* in French. Arrangements are being made for a series of visits to scientific institutions in Paris, and no doubt the social side will not be neglected. M. Léopold Delisle, of the Bibliothèque Nationale, is President of the Organising Committee, and the General Secretary is M. Henry Martin, à la Bibliothèque de l' Arsenal, Rue de Sully, 1, Paris.

THE Program of the Annual Conference of the **American Library Association**, to be held at Montreal, on June 6th-12th, is an exceedingly varied and interesting document. Discussions are to be held on Library Work with Children, Travelling Libraries, Large Libraries and Access to Shelves, a series of "Round Table" discussions will also be inaugurated on such subjects as State Library Commissions, Cataloguing, &c. We are glad this idea is to have a practical trial, as it was first suggested in the *Library World*, and we are interested in its success. If it succeeds in Canada, it ought to be tried in England, and we commend the plan once more to the Library Association.

THE number of **Bristol** libraries, under the operation of the Public Libraries' Acts, has been increased to eight, by the establishment of a

reading and news-room at Fishponds. The building was formally opened by Alderman F. F. Fox (Chairman of the Libraries' Committee), on May 1st. Mr. Norris Mathews, the Chief Librarian, mentioned what his committee had done towards equipping the library. A lending department will be added as soon as funds will permit.

THE death occurred at his residence, George Street, Thornaby, of Mr. **J. T. Williams**, who, for the last six years, has acted as librarian of the Public Library. He also filled the position of teacher of the Queen Street Board Schools. Since Christmas the deceased has been in a weak state of health, and his death resulted from an attack of typhoid fever.

THE electors have appointed Mr. **William Hatchett Jackson, M.A.**, Science Tutor of Keble College, Oxford, to the post of Radcliffes' Librarian, vacant by the resignation of Sir Henry W. Acland.

THE Barton Library at **Eaglesfield**, near Annan, Dumfriesshire, was opened on April 27th, by Mrs. Irving, of Burnfoot, who was presented with a silver key for the purpose. The library, which contains about 3,000 volumes was bequeathed by the late E. J. Barton, along with £1,000 for its accommodation, to the village. Mr. Barton was for many years a judge and collector in the largest district of the Bengal Presidency, his boyhood being passed in Eaglesfield. The library contains many classical and rare volumes, Mr. Barton being master of over a dozen languages.

WE are always desirous of propagating useful knowledge and never disdain any channel of information, however doubtful its source. It appears from a sentence in the **Library Association Record** for May, pp. 247-48, that Library authorities have the powers of legislature, judge, jury, and policeman all rolled into one. At any rate, we are told that anyone taking "the precaution exercised by at least one library within our knowledge of making the possession of a copy of any of its book-plates a criminal offence," would stop certain specified depredations. It is news to us, as it will be to most librarians, that libraries have this power—the power of determining what a criminal offence is without resort to judges or juries—and we should be glad to know by what statute it is conferred, in order to elaborate a series of precautions. There will soon be a few *criminal offences* going about we opine!

On behalf of librarians generally, we must take exception to the concluding sentence of the "causerie" headed "The Criminal Side of Book-plate Collecting." It is this:—"Unfortunately—we regret to have to admit it—librarians are largely responsible for the rise and the spread of this most pernicious craze." This does not make it quite clear whether book-plate stealing or book-plate collecting is the "pernicious craze," but, considering how many libraries and librarians are members of the Ex-Libris Society, and that some very prominent

members of the Library Association are book-plate *collectors*, it is amazing to find a paragraph of this description in the pages of an "official" journal, supported by the very individuals it denounces.

THE Public Libraries' Acts have been adopted by the Borough of **Haslingden**, in Lancashire, and will come into operation on June 1st, 1900. The penny rate realizes £270 per annum, and it is proposed to build a technical school with a reference library attached. There seems to be a nice legal point involved here, as to the power of a Town Council, which constitutes itself a library authority, using money raised under the Libraries' Acts almost entirely for technical instruction purposes.

At the Monthly Meeting of **Lockerbie** Police Commissioners, Mr. J. Richardson gave notice that, in view of the finding of the recent public meeting held regarding the administration of the Easton Institute, he would move at next meeting the adoption of the Free Public Libraries' Act.

ON the recommendation of the Public Libraries' Committee, Mr. **Hobbs**, who has been temporarily discharging the duties for some time past, was appointed permanent librarian at the Rotherhithe Public Library.

At a recent meeting of the **West Ham** Town Council, a letter to the Mayor was read from Mr. J. Passmore Edwards, who said:—"As the appeal to the West Ham ratepayers to increase the library-rate has been negatived, and as other and poorer Metropolitan districts have adopted the Libraries' Act, and are asking my assistance, I beg to withdraw my conditional offer in reference to Plaistow, at all events for the time. Possibly another and more favourable opportunity may present itself, when a similar offer may be made and attended with success."

MR. G. H. **McCall**, Librarian of the Belsize Branch of the Hampstead Public Libraries, has been appointed first librarian of the **Limehouse** Public Library, in the new Borough of Stepney.

THE Burgh Commissioners of **Newmilns**, Ayrshire, have adopted the Public Libraries' (Scotland) Acts, and will take over Brown's Institute, and carry it on for the benefit of the town.

Mr. William T. Montgomery, formerly Senior Assistant, has been appointed Sub-Librarian of the Bootle Public Library, under Mr. C. H. Hunt.



LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS.

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THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

THE Seventh Monthly Meeting of the session was held in the old Gate House of the Priory of St. John of Jerusalem at Clerkenwell, on Monday, May 14th, 1900, when a large number of members and visitors assembled, Mr. H. W. Fincham being voted to the chair. Between fifty and sixty members attended, and the muster was by far the largest reached this session. This was, no doubt, partly owing to the novelty of the programme, and partly to the prospect of excitement over the discussion of certain questions and a resolution standing in the name of Mr. B. Kettle. This discussion duly came off, and much time was occupied over the order in which the names of candidates should appear in the ballot paper for the forthcoming election of council. Mr. Kettle and others thought that the grouping of the retiring members separately from new nominations, and also further distinguishing them by means of an asterisk was unfair, if not illegal, and the result was that another meeting was called to thresh out the question. This is a very little point after all, and will not materially affect the result of the election. The sitting members have practically a freehold; it cannot be denied that, on the whole, they represent the best talent the Association has at its command, and those members who take no part in these London skirmishes will go on voting for the same men till they gradually drop out. A council composed of the members who are now pressing for some kind of reform would be not a whit more acceptable or less liable to attack than the present council, for it is not in the nature of things that any governing body should be thoroughly satisfactory to everyone. We hope in the name of all that is lively and progressive that the council of the L. A. will *never* be universally acceptable and that the non-councillors will always consider it as part of their duty as members to criticise and grumble at the council!

Visits were paid to the Parish Church of St. John, and the ancient crypt beneath it, where Mr. Fincham acted as guide and displayed a great amount of knowledge concerning the Order of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, their history, and the remains of their buildings. The Northampton Institute was then visited, and the members were shown over several thousands of yards of corridors liberally punctuated with class-rooms in which all kinds of arts and crafts, from metal designing to cookery, and electrical engineering to liquid air making, are busily carried on. The library, gymnasium, and various recreative features of this large and flourishing institute were also shown by Dr. Walmsley, the principal, and Mr. Ashford, the secretary, assisted by various members of the staff.

It was announced that the date of the Annual Meeting at Bristol had been fixed for the week beginning September 25th, and that the Right Hon. Sir Edward Fry, P.C., I.L.D., F.R.S., &c., had been nominated for the office of president for the forthcoming year.

NORTH MIDLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

THE Thirty-seventh Meeting was held at Hucknall Torkard and Sutton-in-Ashfield, on Thursday, May 10th. The members turned up well from Nottingham, Derby, Mansfield, and other towns. The proceedings opened at 3 p.m., in the District Council Chamber at Hucknall, the President (Mr. Henry Bond, Lincoln) being in the chair. The Secretary, Mr. Briscoe, being unexpectedly detained in London, Mr. Dent, the Treasurer, read the minutes of the last meeting. A paper on "Lad's Literature" was read by Mr. J. H. Beardsmore, of Hucknall. He had casually questioned about fifty boys as to their reading, and one remarkable fact gleaned was that they purchased for their own reading an average of almost three weekly papers each. A list of these was given, and it spoke well for the tastes of the youth of Hucknall, and, though a few of the papers were of doubtful merit, others were of an unexpectedly hopeful character. A very interesting and practical discussion followed, to which most members present contributed. It was resolved that the next meeting be a summer one, and that it be held at Darley Dale on June 28th. Votes of thanks were tendered to the District Council for the use of the room, to Mr. Dennis for making the local arrangements, and to Mr. Beardsmore for his thoughtful and carefully prepared paper. The Public Library was then visited where the games and smoke rooms of this admirable building attracted the attention of the visitors. The fine church was also visited, where, with Mr. Beardsmore as a very able *cicerone*, the features of interest were examined, the beautiful stained glass and the general decoration, were specially admired, and the tomb of Byron reverently inspected. After tea at 5, the members took the train to Sutton-in-Ashfield, and received a warm welcome at the Jubilee (1897) Public Library, where members of the Committee were awaiting them, and with a just pride they conducted their visitors over the excellent and convenient building. The local gentlemen were evidently gratified with the appreciation of their initial efforts by the N.M.L.A., and they guided us to other places of interest in the small town before we left at 8 o'clock. The conversation on the home-journey was freely interspersed with expressions of satisfaction at the day spent in these two small towns with libraries, doing well the work they are privileged to do, and taking high rank amongst local institutions in the interest displayed in them by those for whom they are established.

Previous meetings (not yet reported in our pages) of this Association were held at Nottingham and Derby. At the former meeting the officers were elected, the only changes being in the President and Vice-President, Mr. Bond, of Lincoln, was elected to the former chair, and Mr. S. Smith, of Sheffield, to the Vice-Presidency. Mr. Willcock (Peterborough), read a paper on "A Brief Historical Sketch of Children's Books," and Mr. Kirk (Nottingham Reference Library) on "Book Illustrations and Elementary School Teachers." Both papers were illustrated, the first by an exhibition of children's books, and the

second by specimen illustrations. At the Derby meeting in March, Mr. Hodder gave an outline history of the Derby Mechanics' Institution, of which he was librarian, and in which the meeting was held. Mr. Crowther gave an address on Longfellow, and read several of his poems with great success. The President contributed a practical paper on "Dictionary versus Classified Catalogues," which evoked an interesting discussion. During the afternoon the Wall-paper Printing Works of Mr. Councillor Wilkins were visited by the members.

SOCIETY OF PUBLIC LIBRARIANS.

A MEETING of the Society of Public Librarians was held at the Bishopsgate Institute, E.C., on Wednesday evening, May 16th, when Mr. Z. Moon (Leyton), read a very able paper on "Learning in the Middle Ages." There was a good attendance of members.

BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

A MEETING of this Association was held at Lichfield, on Wednesday, May 16th. The members visited the Cathedral, and were afforded an opportunity of inspecting the Cathedral Library which is famous for its possession of the priceless Manuscript of the Latin Gospels known as St. Chad's. The library also contains an illuminated MS. of the Canterbury Tales, Caxton's "Lyfe of King Arthur," and a valuable collection of Liturgical works, all of which were examined with great interest. After a ramble to Stowe, and a visit to the well of St. Chad, and other places of interest in the city, the meeting was held at the Public Library.

A scheme for the establishment of a summer school for the Birmingham District was discussed, but it was felt that it was too late to make a start this year, and it was resolved that the question be more fully discussed at the Annual Meeting, in October.

The debate on the catalogue was resumed (having been considered at two previous meetings), further consideration being given to the broadly classified catalogue for the lending library.

The important question as to the *locale* of the summer excursion also came up for discussion, and, having finally decided to visit Malvern, early in July, the members adjourned for a game of bowls as a wind up to the afternoon's proceedings.



CORRESPONDENCE.

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To the Editor of THE LIBRARY WORLD.

CLERKENWELL PUBLIC LIBRARY, LONDON, E.C.

May 16th, 1900.

"OPEN ACCESS IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES EXPOSED."

SIR,—I am sorry if any mistake has been made with regard to the statement of the Metropolitan Police, that books from the Stoke Newington Public Library were found in the possession of "Victor Brooks," the man mentioned in some previous correspondence in your columns. I simply quoted from a type-written letter from the "Assistant Commissioner of Police, Criminal Investigation Department," wherein both "Newington Public Library, Walworth Road," and "Stoke Newington Public Library, Stoke Newington," are separately mentioned, so that it cannot be a mere typist's error. I can assume no responsibility for statements as to thefts from other libraries, as I know nothing more about this case than I have learned from the Metropolitan and City Police, and I can only express my regret if a mistake has been made as regards Stoke Newington. I can see no connection between the operations of Brooks or the loss of eighteen volumes from open shelves at Stoke Newington, and the success or failure of safe-guarded open access *lending* libraries, and marvel at the persistency with which such irrelevancies are paraded.

JAMES D. BROWN.

To the Editor of THE LIBRARY WORLD.

"A LIBRARY PRIMER."

SIR—At the last meeting of the "Library Assistants' Association," convened in the Clapham Public Library, a paper was read by Mr. H. Ogle criticising Mr. Dana's book, "A Library Primer." I desire to protest against the unfair way in which this book was treated. In the first place it was not made clear what the lecture would treat of—whether it was to be an *original* paper of suggestions for a "Library Primer," or simply a reading from a book. As it afterwards appeared, it was merely a reading, which resolved itself into a series of extracts from the book in question.

Having listened to the reading of picked extracts, the members were called upon to criticise and discuss the book. Nobody having read it, proper and just criticism became an impossibility, and the discussion resolved itself into a general "slating" of the chosen extracts submitted to the meeting by the reader, in which the members could only follow his lead, and he adopted a tone which seemed calculated to provoke unfavourable criticism.

The book, which probably contains many perfections, was simply mutilated to suit the reader's views, and the most important chapters, *viz.*, on classification and system were barely mentioned. I consider this *ex parte* method of expounding an author's views most unfair, and must protest against the prejudice exhibited because the book was American, and commented favourably on Open Access, and restrictions on the catalogue. There were some members broad-minded enough to cast this prejudice aside, and treat the book upon its merits—as far as they were able from the extracts. But, on the whole, the discussion was marked by a general ignorance of Mr. Dana's book, which fully bears out the statement of a previous writer in the *Library World* as to the "Neglect of Professional Literature. The Open Access system received its fair share of adverse comment. Now, as all those present, but one, were working in "Closed" libraries, this prejudice is not to be wondered at, although it is, perhaps, unusual for broad-minded persons to lay down the law on matters which have not entered into their experience. As far as I am able to judge, nobody has a real right to express a decided opinion upon these two, or any other systems, except the man who has tried both. How is one able to judge having tried only one plan? The opinion thus formed is bound to be biassed and one-sided. It did not, therefore, seem fair that Mr. Dana's book should be condemned on this point, by people of lesser experience who had only tried one system. With regard to the catalogue, the general opinion was rather prejudiced. That a good catalogue is an acquisition, no one will deny, but as a general reader of books, I have found that at times nothing is more deceptive than to judge the contents of a book from its title, especially as transcribed in some catalogues. On the other hand, much can be gained by glancing through a book. Readers can tell whether its subject matter suits their requirements, its style, its length and all about it.

Another point of discussion, which seemed to provoke much laughter, was the ideal character for a librarian, as set forth by Mr. Dana in his primer. Members seemed much amused at Mr. Dana's ideal qualifications to be looked for in a librarian.

But, if perfection is aimed at, much more is achieved than when only mediocrity is taken as the standard. "He who aims the sky, flies higher far than he who aims a tree." Therefore, I think members were wrong who laughed at Mr. Dana's ideal, or deemed it impossible. Many of the characteristics he speaks of as desirable in a librarian, seem to me to be absolutely necessary—for instance—such qualities as culture, scholarship, courtesy, &c. Mr. Dana is not, then, saying unnecessary things when he exhorts the budding librarian to aim at perfection, and English library assistants would be wise if they cultivated a little of the American earnestness and desire to examine, test, and look all round every question, before expressing themselves dogmatically as to its merits.

Hornsey Public Libraries.

WILLIAM J. HARRIS.



Princeton University Library



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